



On song: deputy leader Roy Hattersley and frontbench spokesmen, Michael Meacher, Ann Taylor, Ann Clwyd and John Cunningham, with the Kinnocks at the end of the conference yesterday

Croatia accord as Serbian leader relents

FROM TOM WALKER IN THE HAGUE AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

LEADERS of the warring factions in Yugoslavia agreed a new peace process yesterday that could eventually lead to the recognition of an independent Croatia and autonomy for the Serbian minority.

But within an hour of the accord being reached at Lord Carrington's peace conference in The Hague, federal forces were bombarding Croatia from land, sea and air, while the army ordered a partial mobilisation under special powers adopted on Thursday.

At The Hague peace talks,

Serbia's hardline nationalist president, Slobodan Milosevic, appeared to make the most significant climbdown of his four years in power when he provisionally recognised Croatia's independence in return for an assurance that the rights of Serbs in Croatia would be guaranteed.

Mr Milosevic, the Croatian leader Franjo Tudjman, and the federal defence minister, General Veljko Kadijevic, also agreed to a new ceasefire under which Croatia would lift the blockade of Yugoslav army barracks while the army would withdraw from its advance positions in the republic and regroup under the supervision of European Community monitors.

Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, said that as long as some form of peace could hold, The Hague conference would continue on the assumption that Yugoslavia would be dissolved into a "loose association or alliance of sovereign or independent republics", with no unilateral declared changes in borders. Lord Carrington welcomed the agreement, saying: "This is the first time that the Serbs have recognised the rights of the other republics to self-determination, subject to

a respect for minority rights." But, recognising the escalation of fighting over the past two days, he added: "We've had false dawns before."

In Belgrade, there was scepticism over the chances of the agreement because the leaders of Croatia's rebel Serb minority have always said that the territories under their control would never be part of an independent Croatia. They were not party to yesterday's agreement and as the peace talks were taking place in The Hague, the self-proclaimed Serbian authorities of Eastern Croatia issued their own call-up for all able-bodied men aged between 20 and 60.

Air raid sirens meanwhile sounded in Croatia's capital, Zagreb, as federal forces attacked Croatian forces across the republic. Citizens were seen hurrying to air raid shelters and Croatian television stopped broadcasting.

The apparent breakthrough in The Hague came as the Yugoslav peace conference approached its most critical hour: the end of the three-month moratorium on declarations of independence by Yugoslavia's republics, expected on page 28, col 1

Zagreb raids, page 7

Sir Allan: no charges

By QUENTIN COWDREY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

POLICE decided yesterday not to press charges of kidnapping against Sir Allan Green, QC, who resigned as Director of Public Prosecutions on Thursday after being stopped by police in a London road last night. The Metropolitan Police will, instead, issue Sir Allan with a written warning, an action which falls short of a caution. The letter

will not require him to admit any offence, but will remind him of his obligation to act within the law.

Charging rates for suspect kidnappers vary between forces but in London the figure is about a third of those reported.

Doubt over future, page 3

Clifford Longley, page 14

Soviet Jews rue exodus to Israel

Disillusioned with the promise of a better life in Israel, Soviet Jews are fighting to go home, reports Richard Beeston

THE prospects of a harsh winter in the Soviet Union this year might be enough to deter the most hardened traveller from venturing into Moscow, but here along Tel Aviv's affluent beachfront hundreds of recent Soviet immigrants are fighting each other for the chance to return home.

In scenes which would embarrass and appal even the most loyal supporter of Israel's right-wing government, Soviet Jews unable to find adequate work or accommodation yesterday mobbed Soviet consular officials in an effort to secure the documents for their return journey.

The Soviet consular mission, protected from the crowd by private security guards and armed Israeli police, has been inundated with thousands of applications from Soviet Jews.

One overworked Soviet diplomat, who explained that some Soviet Jews were unable to adapt to life in Israel, said: "Even during the push in Moscow the queues did not go away."

"When we were shown videos in the Soviet Union by the Israelis of what Israel would be like we believed we could improve our lives socially and economically," said Ludmila, aged 32. She arrived in Israel from Kiev eight months ago with her husband, Dimitri, and daughter, Diana. "In fact quite the reverse is true, we have suffered a decline in our standards. Coming here was the stupidest mistake we ever made and we plan to go back as soon as we can."

Her complaints about false hopes deliberately raised, spiralling unemployment, a housing shortage and general hostility from the Israeli public were repeated again and

Continued on page 20, col 6

Kinnock boosts Labour to two-point poll lead

LABOUR has moved into a two-point lead over the Conservatives in the wake of Neil Kinnock's powerful platform oratory and a slick and trouble-free conference.

The Labour leader left Brighton yesterday after hailing the gathering of party activists as a turning point for them and Britain. He was supported in his euphoria by a Gallup poll, conducted immediately after his keynote address on Tuesday, showing that Labour has transformed a 4.5 percentage points Tory lead a month ago into a 2 point Labour advantage.

The survey, for today's *Daily Telegraph*, puts Labour at 41.5 per cent (up 6.5 points), the Conservatives at 39.5 per cent (no change), the Liberal Democrats at 15 per cent (down 4.5) and others at 4 per cent (down 2).

It suggests that Mr Kinnock's oratory has had an impact on political allegiances, shifting support away from the Liberal Democrats

and moving Labour ahead after a batch of polls last weekend putting the two main parties neck and neck.

An unpublished Gallup poll, taken just before Labour's conference, gave the Tories a four-point lead, confirming Mr Kinnock's address has registered with voters.

The poll contains disappointing news for Paddy Ashdown, suggesting that backing for the Liberal Democrats has waned since the boost they got from their conference earlier in September.

Mr Kinnock's address on Tuesday was hailed as one of the best of his eight years as Opposition leader. Some commentators rated it the most convincing performance by a would-be prime minister since Harold Wilson's "white heat of the technological revolution" battle cry in 1963.

The Labour leader, ending a week that has seen his authority greatly strengthened, sent euphoric delegates away with a prediction that the next

time they met Labour would be in government.

Surrounded on the platform by his shadow cabinet, Mr Kinnock answered claims that Labour had sacrificed principle in pursuit of power and spoke of Labour's policies of patriotism, "the kind of patriotism that springs from the love of the people, the commitment to the people, and not simply respect for the flag flying over it."

The fervour that had gripped the conference after Mr Kinnock's speech on Tuesday was heightened during a razzmatazz climax including a rendering of *The Red Flag*.

One by one, members of the shadow cabinet were called to the rostrum so as to project the strength of Labour's team. Mr Kinnock joined them and broke with tradition to make his second speech of the week, declaring: "We have a programme rooted in principle and we shall govern in exactly the same way."

Gallup's figures are based on a sample of 1,027 voters on October 3 and 4.

Labour in Brighton, page 4
Conference sketch, page 20

Whitehall worried at vulnerable BAe

By ROSS TIEMAN AND RICHARD FORD

CONCERN is growing within Whitehall that the credibility of British Aerospace, Britain's largest manufacturing company, could be further undermined if the company fails to regain sufficient City backing to raise the £432 million needed to underpin its recovery programme.

BAe shareholders meet on Monday morning to vote on the company's fundraising plan. The cash is guaranteed by underwriters, but if the take-up by existing shareholders — mainly City institutions — is embarrassingly low, the company would be vulnerable to stakebuilding by outside companies.

Indications last night, however, were that the rights issue would be backed by institutions, which are likely to be put under pressure to support it despite their severe losses of the past two weeks when the share price collapsed.

Rumours of break-up plans for the company, short of a full

bid, have been prominent in the media all week. Senior Whitehall sources are saying any break-up could be a threat to Britain's industrial base and its expertise in defence technology.

"There is a danger that BAe could disintegrate," said one Whitehall source. "The City has lost confidence in the company's management."

Monday's extraordinary meeting comes only 11 days after Sir Graham Day was appointed temporary chairman in place of Professor Sir Roland Smith, who stepped down over City concern at management failings.

The General Electric Company, headed by Lord Weinstock, is expected to intervene by buying BAe shares only if existing shareholders fail to support the cash call. GEC is determined to stop any other group gaining influence over BAe.

Week Ending, page 21

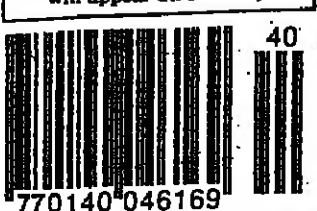
Call for an EC debate

A GRAND debate on Britain's place in the European Community is demanded today by an eminent group of academics and politicians. They warn the government against negotiating in secret on moves to European economic and political union and then relying on whips to force a compromise deal through parliament. The group, headed by Lord Harris of High Cross and including Viscount Tonypandy, the former Speaker, Sir Alan Walters, formerly Margaret Thatcher's personal economics adviser, Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, and the Duke of Devonshire, who was a member of the SDP, say it serves the purpose of party leaders to damp down discussion of the issue. There should be a more open debate on Britain in Europe and they call on people to make their views known to MPs.

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A list of first degree awards from British polytechnics and institutes of technology will appear on Monday



Tabloid army besieges Liz Taylor wedding

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE Israeli commando responsible for security at the pop singer Michael Jackson's ranch in California is said to be ready to go on "Purple Alert" tomorrow to fend off the army of tabloid reporters besieging the estate to catch a glimpse of Elizabeth Taylor's eighth wedding.

Newspapers and television stations from around the world have laid

imaginative plans to storm Jackson's verdant Neverland Valley compound to record the actress's nuptials with a former building worker 20 years her junior, Larry Fortensky. Some will try to sneak into the 2,700-acre grounds as waiters or drivers, while others don scuba gear in an effort to swim past guards in the estate's lagoon. A veritable Battle of



Under siege: Taylor and her building worker bridegroom

Britain in the air is likely with paparazzi expected to hire at least ten helicopters, in spite of suspicions that Jackson plans to fly barrage balloons to protect his airspace.

"I'm planning to scuba dive in as Elvis and ask Michael Jackson to do a duet," said Allan Hall, the distin-

guished America correspondent of *The Sun*, who is one of the many competing in what Americans have dubbed the Superbowl — that is, Cup Final — of tabloid journalism.

Mary Ann Norborn, the Los Angeles bureau chief of *The Globe*, a tabloid weekly, said her paper had

considered using a hot-air balloon for a bungee jump into the midst of the ceremony. Unfortunately, such balloons have been banned in the valley "At our post overlooking the historic Foxen vineyard, *The Globe* will have two helicopters, a refuelling truck and ground crew, a motor home for on-site photo processing, cellular phones and walkie talkies and a hospitality tent," she said.

Even the 160 celebrity guests — who will include Ronald and Nancy Reagan and a Who's Who of Hollywood stars — will be screened with metal detectors to prevent them smuggling in cameras. One leading paparazzo estimates that a snapshot of Taylor and Mr Fortensky exchanged

Continued on page 20, col 6
Wedding dress sketch, page 20

Saturday Review

NAKED AMBITION



"Rudy looks best in the nude," confided Natacha Rambova, who loved, created, controlled and married Rudolph Valentino. Today's *Saturday Review* explains how she did it

WEEKEND TIMES

MONMARTRE MAN



Deformed, alcoholic, dead at 36: everyone knows about Toulouse-Lautrec. Or do they? Today's *Weekend Times* looks at the painter behind the posters

MONDAY

FRESHERS' GUIDE



First term at university? You're almost certainly sure of a place to stay. Polytechnic? That's a different story. On Monday *The Times Student Survey* will present a comprehensive guide to accommodation and the other facilities offered by colleges. John O'Leary introduces it today Page 2

Australia's Northern Territory..!

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Week Ending, page 21



Mackay demands a halt to the soaring cost of legal aid



Mackay: plans to control high level of spending

THE Lord Chancellor called yesterday for radical changes in the legal aid scheme to curb rising costs and provide taxpayers with a better service. Lord Mackay of Clashfern said that the net cost of the legal aid scheme had risen by an average of 17 per cent over the past ten years. That could not continue indefinitely.

"In gross terms - what legal aid actually pays the lawyers - we are now spending more than £1,000 million each year and rising," he told 300 legal aid solicitors gathered in Coventry to discuss the future of the system.

Lord Mackay said that he had responsibility to provide the means for "reasonable access" to justice and for controlling the high

level of spending. "But I am not in a position to procure the necessary means at any price and on any terms. We are just about at the limit of what is supportable without radical changes."

He intended to take steps to secure better value for money and to raise standards. Lawyers had paid more attention to standards of behaviour than to standards of competence in recent years, resulting in a level of competence that was far from uniform.

He outlined plans for a "radical overhaul" of the system for paying solicitors and for quality control over the service that they provide. On criminal legal aid, he spoke of his plans to bring in a system of fixed fees in the magistrates'

The Lord Chancellor has told legal aid solicitors they must raise standards and give better value for money. Frances Gibb reports

courts, where lawyers will be paid by the type of case and not according to how long it takes.

Those plans, now being negotiated, are unlikely to be brought in before next year, however, having been delayed by differences between the Law Society and the Lord Chancellor's officials over the details.

On the civil side, where lawyers complain of having to wait up to three years to be paid for work already billed, Lord Mackay said that he was launching a new

payment scheme to reward "good quality work by timely recompense".

A pilot scheme for personal injuries work will be set up next year. Solicitors will be paid at each stage of a case and not have to wait until the end.

The Lord Chancellor also mentioned the government's franchising proposals, under which certain legal aid firms will be contracted to provide legal aid under strict quality criteria in return for financial incentive. He said that that

policy insisted "that practitioners come up to scratch".

There was a disappointed reaction among legal aid lawyers, who said that the Lord Chancellor had offered little comfort at a time when their practices were in difficulty. Julian Linskill, a Liverpool solicitor, said that his firm had a turnover of more than £1 million a year. Yet it was owed £250,000 in fees already billed and had a rolling backlog of £100,000 in magistrates' courts bills. His firm had overrun its overdraft for the first time in 18 years.

"How can I look forward to the long-term future of the practice when I can't be paid efficiently and now?" he asked. "You tell me I must have regard to providing the

client with a quality service when it is not certain that the next phone call won't tell me to close the doors of the practice."

Philip Ely, president of the Law Society, accepted that the government faced a dilemma over legal aid and he accepted the inevitability of some firms being selected as "preferred suppliers". That could provide benefits for all, but he said that legal aid work would be concentrated in fewer firms. "It's likely that there'll be a shake-out of the also-rans with a number of firms fading away by merger or disintegration where they are under-resourced and don't have the skilled legal personnel, management aptitude or capital to succeed in the changing climate."

Rapid growth leaves polytechnics short of student rooms

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

RAPID expansion has left polytechnics struggling to house new students at the start of the academic year, while almost all universities have been able to guarantee starters a residential place, according to a survey, full details of which will be published in *The Times* on Monday.

Although returns from the 32 polytechnics in England and Wales suggest that this year's increase in student numbers will be less than predicted, few have sufficient accommodation of their own to cater for even half of their new students. Universities, which have been expanding more slowly and have fewer local students, have a much greater housing stock to fall back on.

The survey shows wide variations in the numbers of extra students arriving at universities this week. Only Durham University and Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, were unable to guarantee first-year students accommodation, although Salford Uni-

versity and the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, could not fulfil their promise to some late arrivals.

Only seven polytechnics owned or rented enough accommodation to make such a guarantee. Some are still taking additional students, although student unions say many newcomers are being forced into poor and often expensive private housing.

The survey also shows that large numbers of last year's students dropped out of some polytechnics in their first term. Many institutions are reluctant to reveal drop-out rates or unable to pinpoint the numbers for a particular term, but the returns suggest a higher rate in polytechnics than in universities.

The National Union of Students said yesterday that drop-out rates and accommodation shortages were directly related to government policies on student support. A spokeswoman said: "Students have a right to expect safe, affordable accommodation, and colleges

have a right to expect sufficient funding to provide this. We need a system that does not lead to the pack-the-train philosophy being forced on colleges now."

John Izbicki, spokesman for the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, said overseas students were guaranteed a residential place and priority was given to newcomers whenever necessary, but many polytechnic students were not school leavers and did not need accommodation. About half of polytechnic students are over 21, many living locally and on part-time courses.

"Generally speaking, universities are on big green-belt campuses with plenty of room for new residences," he said. "Polytechnics tend to be bang in the middle of the community, where it is difficult to build. They have always had fewer resources than universities but, now that they are able to borrow, many polytechnics are using the money they raise for building."

New funding systems for universities and polytechnics encourage expansion to meet the government's target of one school-leaver in three entering higher education by the end of the century. Admissions bodies have predicted increases in enrolments of up to 20 per cent at polytechnics and 7 per cent at universities, but *The Times* survey shows the two sectors much closer together.

Although six universities reported that they had taken no more students than in 1990, and St Andrews University was down slightly on last year's figures, some have expanded intake by 20 per cent or more. Loughborough University has taken 30 per cent more into first-year courses.

Although some polytechnics had expanded by more than 20 per cent, most said they were taking about 10 per cent more students in the new year. Only Bristol and Teesside polytechnics were not planning an increase.

Giving credit, page 21

Freshers get rooms with a sea view at holiday camp

By RONALD FAUX

AS STAFF at Lancashire Polytechnic, Preston, comb the town's property market for rooms and houses for a new influx of students, 391 freshers are settling into chalets at Pontin's holiday camp at Southport, 17 miles away.

More than 3,000 new students arrived in Preston this week to join the fast-expanding polytechnic. "Unfortunately it is expanding faster than the rate at which accommodation can be found," Veena Bhatti, president of the students' union, said. "This happens every year and every year it seems to come as a surprise."

A free coach service is provided for the journey between Southport and Preston and the students pay a subsidised rate of £21 a week for their chalets until rooms closer to college can be found. The arrangement with Pontin's is temporary, college managers say, avoiding the need for emergency accommodation on mattresses in sports halls.

The college has 7,500 full-time students, and finding places for them to live is a big task. The success rate has not impressed the students' union, whose latest newspaper depicts Brian Booth, the rector, as Henry V standing before a battle-weary host after Agincourt, with the headline: "Poly boss Brian Booth addresses the staff before the start of term". The paper goes on to complain that students have nowhere to live, park, sit or hang their coats. It has not

been a good week for the students, mingling with end-of-season holidaymakers at Pontin's. Gale-force winds whistled between the chalet blocks and jostled a forlorn fleet of plastic boats on a pleasure pond as Clare Bell, aged 18, returned from a search for a home closer to college. "I've walked miles today trying to find a place," she said.

The chalet, shared with Joanna Barnard, aged 18, was heated by an electric fire and cooker, both fed by a 10p meter. Joanna said: "It takes three quarters of an hour to get from Preston, that means 90 minutes a day travelling time, which is not good. Everyone is worried they will be the last ones left here."

Other students at Pontin's complained that reaching college for the first lectures meant getting up by 7am to catch the coach and that chalets designed for summer holidays were unsuitable when hampered by autumn gales.

The college said yesterday that some students would spend only a few days at Southport, but others may be there six weeks while they sought homes in Preston. A new £5 million hall with 400 student bedrooms near the main campus had eased pressure this year and work began this week on a 450-bed hall in Preston.

Meanwhile, a campaign continues to encourage new landlords to come forward and profit from the student demand.



Kiss of friendship: a Kuwaiti girl whose father is a prisoner of war in Kuwait greets John Major at Downing Street yesterday. The prime minister later told the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, that Britain would continue to press for the return of Kuwaiti detainees still held in Iraq after the Gulf war (Richard Ford writes). Mr Major also pledged that Saddam Hussein would not be allowed to rebuild a nuclear, biological and chemical weapons capability with which Iraq could intimidate its neighbours and threaten the stability of the region.

Wildcat strikers form new union

By KERRY GILL

THE Offshore Industry Liaison Committee, responsible for the wildcat strikes in the North Sea last year, has formed a breakaway offshore union outside the TUC, threatening an inter-union war in the offshore oil and gas industries.

The committee intends to poach members from the official unions believed to represent more than 6,000 workers employed in the British sector of the North Sea, although there are about 25,000 non-union employees. Ronnie McDonald, chairman of the unofficial body created

in 1989 to fight for improved safety, union recognition and negotiating rights, said the union was formed because established unions had failed adequately to represent the workers.

He said the decision was backed by meetings in Glasgow and on many platforms and rigs. He admitted that the trade union movement would regard the new union as a "scab outfit" but added that it would have been moral cowardice not to form it.

The action, which has a large core of support, will face union members with a dilemma: whether to cut connections with existing unions or remain with the official bodies. It also presents the established unions with the prospect of thousands of members leaving, weakening their position when negotiating with the oil companies.

Mr McDonald hoped the committee would eventually be taken into the "bosom of the Labour and trade union movement". The committee, which aims initially to recruit more than 3,000 members offshore, already has offices in Aberdeen, Newcastle upon Tyne and Glasgow and it is expected that more branches will be opened.

The move came after a decision by the existing unions to form a sub-committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

Kinnock tribute to science shows talent for invention

Labour's list of great inventions were not all British, reports Nick Nuttall

POLITICIANS are not averse to fudging the facts for the sake of a sterling speech and Neil Kinnock would appear to be no exception when it comes to science and technology.

He cited several world-beating British inventions during his opening address at the Labour conference in Brighton on Tuesday which had then been developed and made abroad. A Labour government would change this unsatisfactory state of affairs, he said.

The scientific world, however, might dispute the Britishness of some of the examples given.

"Everyone knows that British scientists invented the first steam engine, the first electric motor and generators and transformers, radio, television, the first jet engine, the first cardiograph, penicillin, the first computer," Mr Kinnock said.

While most of these statements hold good, there might be a few eyebrows raised, especially in North America, concerning radio and the electric motor. The first system of radio signalling is attributed to Mahlon Loomis of Washington DC in a paper published in 1866. Mr Loomis was granted the first patents in July 1872. Even Guglielmo Marconi, the man Mr Kinnock probably had in mind, was Italian, demonstrating the technology in Italy in 1894 before coming to Britain.

The first electric motor of

demonstrated the principle of the hologram in Britain, was a Hungarian who was trained in Germany. A spokesman for Johnson Matthey, the company which has played a pivotal role in the development of the catalytic converter, said: "It was actually a German in 1926 who demonstrated a form of catalyst for cleaning up exhausts."

Conference reports, page 4



Waldegrave: faces strong test at party conference

Major pledges more money for the NHS

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister promised more money for the health service yesterday as doctors joined Labour in increasing pressure on the government to demonstrate its commitment to state-funded medical care.

John Major said: "In real terms, the amount of resources for the health service has gone up by about 50 per cent. I say, without any hesitation, it will go on rising year after year. That is what I will tell people in the election."

Mr Major's intervention came against the background of Neil Kinnock's attempt to make the health service the main election battleground and renewed warnings from the British Medical Association that the principles underpinning the health service are at risk.

The moves by Labour and the BMA coincide with the results of a survey published by *The Times* showing that many of the hospitals that have opted out of health authority control are running out of money and are likely to have to close wards and turn away patients this winter.

The increasing concern over the health service puts William Waldegrave, the health secretary, in a strong position in his annual tussle with the Treasury for a big increase in spending next year. Many Tory MPs will be hoping that Mr Waldegrave can secure an immediate cash injection to stave off a spate of politically damaging closures this winter.

Mr Waldegrave faces a difficult test at next week's party conference in Blackpool when he will have to reassure anxious activists that the health reforms can command popular support and counter Labour's emotive charge that they signal the privatisation of the service. He re-entered the fray yesterday by saying that Labour's plans to halt opting out would be a "real nonsense" and that managerial power should lie in the hospitals.

The prime minister sought to smooth Mr Waldegrave's conference path in an interview with *The House Magazine*.

Westminster's journal, by underlining his personal commitment to the service. "I am the leader of the Conservative party and I have never used anything other than the NHS... I have no intention of damaging the NHS and no intention of privatising the NHS... I will build the NHS up."

Mr Major accused Labour of adopting a "drip, drip" technique to frighten people about the future of the service. Its charges would not stick because they were false.

However, the BMA, whose leaders had a private meeting with Mr Major earlier this week to press their case for more money and a slackening of the pace of reform, kept up the pressure by releasing a report highlighting a gradual erosion of the health service's fundamental principles. *Agenda for Health* complained that some services are "not free at the point of delivery, not comprehensive and do not provide a full range of choice for patients and their doctors". It said: "Now we have charges, not only for dental care, prescriptions and glasses, but also for new sorts of diagnostic tests and treatments."

At the meeting, Mr Major in effect accused BMA leaders of being at odds with their members. He said there was enthusiasm among consultants and GPs for the reforms.

Market anomalies, page 6

Cereal crop highest for five years

British farmers have achieved their third highest cereal harvest on record, according to a provisional estimate by the agricultural ministry. The crop is put at 22.7 million tonnes, up from 22.6 million last year. An increase in yields offset a reduction in the crop area.

The wheat totalled 14.3 million tonnes, barley 7.7 million and oats and other cereals 700,000, the ministry estimated. Wheat yields per acre went up by 3 per cent, while the area sown declined by 1 per cent. Barley yields rose 6 per cent, offsetting an 8 per cent decline in acreage.

The harvest is equal in tonnage to that of 1989. Bigger harvests have been achieved in only two other years - 24.5 million tons in 1986 and 26.5 million in 1984.

Mann moves on

Jack Mann will leave RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire, on Monday morning to begin the second stage of his readjustment to a life of freedom. The former bomber, aged 77, will spend a last weekend at the base, which has been his home for the past ten days, before leaving for an undisclosed destination in southern England. His wife Sannie will fly later to Nicosia in Cyprus to prepare their bungalow.

Adler award

Larry Adler the musician accepted undiscussed High Court libel damages yesterday over a book, *The Duke - A Portrait of Prince Philip*, that suggested that he was shunned in the Thursday Club, a lunch-club group to which the Duke of Edinburgh belonged. An apology was made by the defendants, Tim Heald, the author, Hodder & Stoughton, the publisher, and Sir Rosalind Bennett, quoted in the book.

Gilmour to retire

Sir Ian Gilmour, Tory MP for Chesham and Amersham, and a former defence secretary, is to retire from the Commons at the next general election. Sir Ian was dismissed from the cabinet in 1981 because of his opposition to Margaret Thatcher's economic policies. After his dismissal he said that she was steering full speed ahead for the rocks. Sir Ian, aged 65, had a majority of 19,440 at the last election.

Champion leads

The women's world chess champion, Maya Chiburdanidze of the Soviet Union, has taken the lead in the women's world chess championship in Manila. In the fifth game the champion won in 42 moves against the challenger, Xie Jun of China.

CORRECTION

An article that appeared on October 3 stated that Robert Fleming/Save and Prosper charged £10 for a stopped cheque. The figure was based on incorrect information in a *Which?* report. Robert Fleming has no charges for stopping cheques.

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Many lawyers hope former DPP will resume advocacy after fall from office

Green is likely to escape suspension after police decision

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

SIR Allan Green, QC, the former director of public prosecutions, is unlikely to face serious disciplinary action by the Bar following his ignominious departure as head of the Crown prosecuting system in England and Wales, legal sources predicted yesterday.

According to well placed sources in the legal establishment, the police decision not to recommend that Sir Allan be prosecuted for kerb-crawling has probably saved him from the further crushing blow of being suspended from the Bar, or even disbarred. This means that Sir Allan, a member of the Bar Council, might return, after a discreet interval, to working as an advocate.

Under the Bar's rules, Sir Allan, stopped by police late on Wednesday night for alleged kerb-crawling at King's Cross, London, will have to present himself before the Bar's professional

conduct committee, whose sanctions range from a verbal reprimand to disbarment. Few, however, expect the committee, chaired by Hugh Carlisle, QC, to opt for a serious penalty, if any at all.

Anthony Scrivener, QC, the Bar's chairman, studiously declined yesterday to say whether Sir Allan, who is widely respected within the legal profession, should face further indignity. However, in a clear hint of the hopes many barristers have that Sir Allan will be allowed to return to court work, he added: "I can say that when he's dealt with by the committee, there will be no objection to him coming back to the Bar."

Sir Allan, who had a salary of £77,000 a year as DPP and head of the Crown Prosecution Service, used to be a leading prosecutor at the Central Criminal Court. Although the legal establish-

ment is united in its sadness at his humiliation few lawyers believe that he had any option but to resign after being suspected of having committed a criminal offence. By tendering his resignation immediately to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-General, he removed the possibility of a decision on whether he should be prosecuted being made by his colleagues.

Scandals like this week's are rare in the legal profession, but where the offence—real or suspected—is sexual in nature, the fall from grace is always severe. For example, in December 1989, Lord Dervaird, a Scottish High Court judge, abruptly resigned amid allegations that he had been involved in homosexual activity, and this summer, Timothy Parkin, an assistant recorder, resigned after being convicted of kerb-crawling in Leeds.

By contrast, barristers and judges who commit other offences, including drink-driving, seem to escape comparatively lightly. One prominent case being cited yesterday was that of the late Lord Russell of Killowen, a law lord, who continued in his earlier office of an appeal judge in spite of being banned from the road for drink-driving in 1969. Peter Kenworthy-Brown, a registrar in the High Court family division, declined to resign after being fined for drink-driving in May 1989.

Neither the French nor the Italian police bother to prosecute the kerb crawler. In fact, the activity is not regarded as an offence, simply an expression of male sexuality and the law of supply and demand.



Under pressure: Sir Allan Green and his wife, Eva, leaving their London home early yesterday morning

Vice that provokes a Gallic shrug

By BILL FROST AND PHILIP JACOBSON

DALLIANCE with a street walker still spells disaster for prominent public figures in Britain. Elsewhere in Europe, the high and the mighty are free to kerb crawl with impunity, should the humour take them.

The Germans share the same rigid Anglo-Saxon moral code, but only when the 13th commandment—thou shalt not be caught out—has been conspicuously broken.

Neither the French nor the Italian police bother to prosecute the kerb crawler. In fact, the activity is not regarded as an offence, simply an expression of male sexuality and the law of supply and demand.

The downfall of Sir Allan Green passed almost unnoticed in France. Only *Libération*, the left-leaning daily, covered the story under the headline "Sir Allan Trips on the Kerb".

French politicians and public figures with a taste for illicit entanglements far prefer the privacy of a mistress's flat or an up-market brothel to the hurly-burly of Place Pigalle. Such is the nature of the Gallic psyche, however, that no one would care too much if they did parade their

vices in public. Italians take a similarly relaxed view of moral turpitude.

Prostitutes used to line streets in certain areas of Rome and other cities. The threat of Aids has forced many off the kerb, while others now advertise their services in newspaper columns. A recent influx of Brazilian transvestites has also dented trade. Whoremongers in Rome have been traumatised to discover their temporary companions were a little too exotic.

Japan's geishas would never dream of soiling their kimonos on a street corner.

Ritual, discretion and privacy characterise their dealings with the tired soft-wear executive who cannot be bothered to take the Bullet Train home from Tokyo.

Police in the United States regularly swoop on prostitutes, but often allow their clients to walk free. Although custom and practice vary from state to state, it is the girls rather than their clients who are more likely to spend a night in the cells. As elsewhere, leading public figures seldom feature in vice tawls: they realise the importance of not breaking the 13th commandment.

Clarke cuts cash to opt-out schools

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke, the education secretary, yesterday cut the amount that local authorities must pay towards schools that opt out of their control, because of the success of the government's squeeze on the authorities' bureaucracy.

Budgets for grant-maintained schools are pegged to local education authority spending. Because the government has successfully pressed the authorities to devote more funding to their own schools, those opting out will receive less from them.

Although the reduction will be marginal for each school, savings for some authorities will be sizeable. The level of cut will rise where large numbers of schools opt out.

Grant-maintained schools have been receiving 16 per cent more than others in the state system to match the amount held back by local authorities for administration and central services. Led by the Conservative-controlled Association of County Councils, however, the authorities complained that their extra budget delegation meant that they were now subsidising those opting out.

Mr Clarke responded yesterday by cutting the proportion of grant-maintained schools' budgets reflecting central spending to 15 per cent.

He said that the change would ensure that local authority schools were not penalised, while the authorities would be encouraged to delegate still more of their budgets to schools.

He also announced that the grant could be cut further if more than 15 per cent of an authority's primary or secondary schools opted out. The education department would determine what figure was justified for central costs.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said: "Mr Clarke has yielded to intense pressure, not least from Conservative authorities, which are deeply hostile to opting out, but the financial system for grant-maintained schools remains brazenly stacked in their favour, contrary to the government's promises of financial neutrality. What is needed is independent scrutiny to end the bribery."

Mr Clarke resisted the temptation to end the link with local authority budgets in order to retain the stability and predictability it provides for all types of school.

He fears constant disputes over funding levels without a national system for opting out.

Channel tunnel

Trains will not fit prefab station

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PASSENGERS alighting at the proposed temporary station for Channel tunnel rail services would be forced to get off at the rear of the quarter-mile-long trains because the platform will be only half their length, it emerged yesterday.

The disclosure came as Eurotunnel, the Channel tunnel operator, unveiled plans to set up a joint venture to build, finance and operate the temporary station to give Kent and Sussex direct access to international rail services when the tunnel opens in June 1993.

The temporary station, at Ashford, Kent, would be made out of Portakabins, providing 2,000 square yards of floor space for customs and immigration services, and a ticket hall and waiting rooms. It would cost £4 million and could be built in a year.

Richard Hope, an independent rail consultant and former editor of *Railway Gazette*, said that while the Eurotunnel scheme was little more than a second-rate solution, it would avoid the frustration and extra cost of travelling to Waterloo to catch an international train.

Eurotunnel's Portakabin station would not win any "Prince of Wales awards for architectural design", Mr Ford said. "But it will make it politically impossible for the government to take international trains away from Ashford."

British Rail had planned to begin work in March on a £140 million station at Ashford which would have been ready when Channel tunnel services began in June 1993. Government delays in approving the scheme mean that it could not be completed in time.

The first person to notice the unusual sound was one of her regulars, Nigel Cleere, a birdwatcher, as he was leaving the pub at closing time earlier this week. He promptly telephoned Bird Line, which keeps enthusiasts posted. Hence the prompt arrival of the twitching horde at the Craven Arms.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said that the Tengmalm's sound was quite different from that of the tawny and little owl and would be recognised instantly by experts as something unusual.

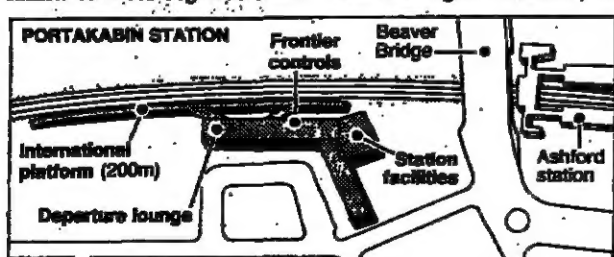
Cold, wet weather in early summer caused a setback to the breeding of several threatened species, including ospreys and red kites, the RSPB says in a report to its annual meeting in London today. Thanks to cooperation by farmers, however, stone curlews enjoyed their best breeding season for many years.

A Tengmalm, whose hoot has set ears a-twitching

John Bennett, a spokesman for BR's European passenger services division, said: "If Eurotunnel were serious about this proposal they would have approached us much earlier than last night. However, we will examine the scheme."

Sir Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's chief executive, said: "We have come up with a Portakabin solution. We still await a government decision to provide a permanent solution. Meanwhile, second-class facilities will have to stand in comparison with the stations now being built in Lille and Roissy, let alone Brussels Midi and Paris Gare du Nord."

Leading article, page 15



Twitchers hark after Alpine owl

By JOHN YOUNG

A WELCOME if unexpected continental guest has touched down at the Craven Arms public house, in the village of Enborne, in Berkshire, in the shape of a Tengmalm's owl, which normally confines itself to the mountains and forests of Scandinavia and the Alps.

The bird has not actually dropped into the pub itself, but has apparently taken up residence in a wood opposite, bringing twitchers in droves to await the nocturnal hoot.

Cathy Rosier, the landlady,

said that 100 twitchers had fortified themselves at the bar on Thursday night before going out on patrol. "They were still out there when I went to bed."

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A Tengmalm, whose hoot has set ears a-twitching

Weekend Times, page 5

Meal break delays flights

MORE than 500 airline passengers circled the skies over Scotland yesterday while two air traffic controllers took a compulsory meal break.

The break forced the closure of Glasgow airport for 75 minutes yesterday morning. As the controllers ate, a holiday flight from Florida, another from Palma and two air freighters were barred from landing. The first plane allowed down was the Florida flight, whose pilot reported that one diabetic passenger had forgotten to take an insulin shot and was in discomfort.

The incident was blamed

on sickness and a shortage of controllers in Britain and throughout Europe. It began when one of the three duty controllers reported sick on Thursday night. His two colleagues carried on but by law they had to have the meal break, the Civil Aviation Authority said. To minimise disruption, the controllers decided to take the break together.

A CAA spokesman said that one of the controllers was not fully validated and could not have carried out a full range of duties unsupervised. The alternative would have been for the airport to close for two

and a half hours. "They made what they thought was the right decision, and we stand by that," he said.

An aircraft carrying the Princess Royal made an emergency landing at Liverpool airport yesterday after the pilot suspected it was struck by a bird.

The incident happened as the British Aerospace 146 jet of the Queen's flight taking the princess to Liverpool on official duties, was climbing after taking off from Northolt, north London.

A spokesman at Liverpool airport said there were no signs of damage to the plane.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Goldsmith: the making of a mogul

That summer, Jimmy met the woman who was to change his life: Isabel Patino. He was 20; she was just 18 and the daughter of Antonio Patino, one of the world's richest men, having inherited \$200m. Isabel's appearance in the

Goldsmith story is so brief and so poignant that it is now difficult to sort out the myth from the reality. But that should not detract from this extraordinary love story, which would stay fixed in Goldsmith's memory as an all too brief period of great beauty and purity.

Ivan Fallon, in the first extract from *Billionaire*, his biography of Sir James Goldsmith - *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

Weekend Times, page 5

GOOD FOOD
GOOD COMPANY.
GOOD CHEER.
IT'S FAR FROM AN
ORDINARY CHRISTMAS

Conference hailed as turning point for party

By ROBERT MORGAN
AND JOHN WINDER

NEIL KINNOCK made it clear yesterday that he would not indulge in personality politics in the election campaign. Winding up the party conference in Brighton yesterday, he told cheering delegates: "In their efforts to try to save themselves from disaster at the election, the Tories will go to any lengths, they will stoop to any depths, in their desperate efforts to conquer."

"I say now as I have said throughout: we shall not respond in kind with biliousness and slander for two reasons. First, it sickens the British people. Second, when I hear some attacks on these people [the shadow cabinet] and people up and down the country in local government and trade unionism, people active in our movement and community generally, much as I detest Toryism, I would not do to individuals and families what they try to do to individuals and families."

He summarised Labour policies and said that they would fire the real patriotism of the nation, "the kind of patriotism which springs from the love of the people, the commitment of the people to our land and not simply from respect for the flag flying over us - applied patriotism".

The conference, he said, would prove to have been a turning point for the Labour party and in the history of this country.

"It has combined hard, practical policies with idealism on which those policies are based and from which they grow. We have a programme rooted in principle and we shall govern in exactly the same way. That will make a change from the Tories."

Mr Kincock, surrounded by his shadow cabinet, said that the conference had shown the dazzling quality of the people who would form the next Labour government. "These people have been brilliant. They are people, as the country now knows, with the talent

for government, and they have earned the chance to be the democratic government of Britain - women and men."

He went on: "Victory is more than within our grasp. What I take the greatest pride and pleasure in is that over those years of construction, of reaching out, of appealing, of listening, we have been earning the trust of people throughout the land. We have earned it by saying what we know to be true and by defending what we know to be right even when it was not always popular."

"Our task is now clear, to build a fairer and freer society. We do not choose between prosperity and compassion as though they were opposites. What we say is that one of the basic reasons for seeking assiduously to build prosperity is so that compassion can be consistent, generous and a matter of right, and not a matter of favours. That is the mark of a civilised society."

And he quoted parts of Tennyson's *In Memoriam*:

Ring out the old, ring in the new...

Ring out the grief that saps the mind

Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,

The faithless coldness of the times...

Ring out false pride in place and blood,

The civic slander and the spite;

Ring in the love of truth and right,

Ring in the common love of good...

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;

Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;

Ring out the thousand wars of old,

Ring in the thousands years of peace.

"Let that message of confidence and hope sound across the land," Mr Kincock said.



And baby came too: Sue Nye, a member of Neil Kinnock's office, with her daughter Rosie at Brighton yesterday. Ms Nye is married to Gavyn Davies, a City economist

Private capital could fund priority projects

By JOHN LEWIS

SHADOW ministers are considering plans to authorise the raising of money on the open market under a Labour government for not only British Rail but for high-priority projects in housing, education, health and energy.

John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, and his economic team are discussing how to inject private capital into worthwhile schemes and removing crucial capital spending from the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR).

The counting of public-sector capital projects as part of the PSBR has been a brake on successive governments worried that a high PSBR will risk a loss of confidence and a run on the pound. Mr Smith,

Margaret Beckett, Chris Smith and others have decided that a Labour government will split the Treasury accounts for the first time to show capital and revenue spending separately. The next step would be to take out capital expenditure.

Talks with the City have been encouraging. Shadow ministers have had an encouraging response when arguing that it would be wrong to pay civil servants by raising money on the market, but that capital investment, showing a proper commercial return, would be different. If Labour does take the step, it will be of wide political significance. The party constantly comes

up against the question: "How would you pay for the public sector schemes you propose?" John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, has made most of the early running. John Smith has not quite given him a blank cheque, but he has asked him for detailed proposals for attracting private money. He has talked privately about British Rail floating its own bond, in the way that SNCF has done in France, and leasing back arrangements, with BR putting forward its substantial land assets against borrowing.

Mr Prescott would, for example, want a Labour government immediately to allow BR to borrow £450 million for new north Kent trains. He has also talked about financing the

Channel tunnel fast link and the languishing bus industry in a similar way.

On housing, the shadow Treasury team is having discussions with Clive Soley, the shadow housing spokesman, and Nick Raynsford, former MP for Fulham and now a respected housing consultant.

Britain is at present producing only 40,000 local authority and housing association homes a year. Labour would aim at 50,000 council homes and 25,000 housing association homes, but even that would fall well short of the Institute of Housing estimate that the country needs at least 100,000 homes each year for the next ten years.

The latest policy proposal to set up a national housing

investment bank would help. It would attract private money and distribute it to councils and housing associations.

There is hesitation about the private financing of NHS hospitals. It could smack too easily of the Tory market philosophy that Labour has condemned, but the door is not closed. If the choice is building or not building a hospital and someone comes forward with a practical scheme, it will be examined.

Mrs Beckett said the ideas of using the private market have considerable potential. "There should be real advantage in developing a sound partnership with the private sector. We will not be guilty, as this government has been, of holding back Britain."

But perhaps Labour's biggest problem is that the bar-room talk in Brighton still turned much on what would happen in a hung parliament. Delegates do not quite believe that the party will do it in one go. Hence the great interest in what turned out to be a poor debate on FR (and one which reflected the new mood by showing the PR tide on the conference floor ebbing a little). The subject is still there, however, and it continues to divide both party and shadow cabinet.

For all that, Labour had a good week and one which will put the onus on Mr Major to produce something more than "steady as she goes" in Blackpool. The Tories, too, need to find an instinctive theme to appeal to the electorate and to show, as they did in 1986, that they still have plenty of ideas. "Time for a change" could be a powerful pull.

Close to a winning hand in the last chance saloon

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

THIS week's Labour party gathering may have been bland in between the Sixties songs, but it was effective, a rally rather than a conference.

Neil Kinnock was better focused on Labour's alternative than ever. Roy Hattersley, now, like his leader, in the last chance saloon, has rediscovered his political zest. And the shadow team beneath them, the leadership candidates if it does go wrong after all, displayed their talents. If Gordon Brown had the best jokes, John Smith retains Labour's best line in gravitas.

We sentimentalists in the media may have longed at times for the old Labour party that wore hearts on its sleeves, when a rampant left packed in hundreds at its fringe meetings and when the tension between MPs, constituency delegates and union bosses positively crackled across the conference floor. But this is the age of the compliant party and the sound-bite.

As Neil Kinnock spoke, the party's media professionals were not out on the floor but clustered round television sets. It was not how it was that mattered, but how it looked. And what viewers saw was a confident party, boosted by the fact that the prime minister could not risk a November election, cheered to have reversed the late summer surge for the Tories in opinion

polls and increasingly convinced that its nostrums are coming back into fashion.

Kinnock and Smith, Beckett and Brown, exuded reassurance like company solicitors. The tone of the leader's speech was an optimistic "We too can do it", placed firmly in a European context. While tensions would surely show in government, there does appear to have been a sea change on Europe. "We have been bonded by the Social Charter" was how one union leader put it.

We caught a glimpse of the old passion on the health service, where Labour feels instinctively that it has public support. The delegates feel too that it is Labour which is best placed to profit from the ending of the "public bad, private good" ethos of the Thatcher years. Mr Kinnock has not only restored their will to win but made them feel relevant too.

But you still have to pinch yourself when you hear Labour speakers obsequiously praising their leader in the way they did this week. "Altogether too much Kim II Sung-ism" snuffed one shadow cabinet minister, adding that he hoped Mr Kinnock would not be staying on to 85.

But if much went well this week there remain many unanswered questions. John Smith has told us that the new

50 per cent tax rate will not bite as low as £30,000 a year. But he will not say where it will bite, and Labour will be harried on that throughout an election.

Labour may be winning points on the health service, but where Robin Cook is to get the £6 billion which he says is necessary to cure underfunding remains hopelessly unclear. Behind the scenes, party strategists admit to problems. Labour has not yet, they admit, succeeded in shedding its image as the high tax party.

It is hard for Labour that it seems to have a vested interest in bad news as we begin to edge out of recession. It has not succeeded yet in turning the debate into one about who will best manage a recovered Britain.

It has still not managed to pin the problems which the country has suffered under Tory government on the popular John Major, although the longer he is in the job the easier that should become.

The flurry over the huge contributions to the Tory party from various millionaires has obscured Labour's problems with the union connection but not removed them. And the much publicised reminder from Tony Benn that "If we've changed our minds to win, we could change our minds when we've won" will enable the Tories to keep exploiting a Labour hidden agenda, as Labour seeks to exploit theirs.

But perhaps Labour's biggest problem is that the bar-room talk in Brighton still turned much on what would happen in a hung parliament. Delegates do not quite believe that the party will do it in one go. Hence the great interest in what turned out to be a poor debate on FR (and one which reflected the new mood by showing the PR tide on the conference floor ebbing a little). The subject is still there, however, and it continues to divide both party and shadow cabinet.

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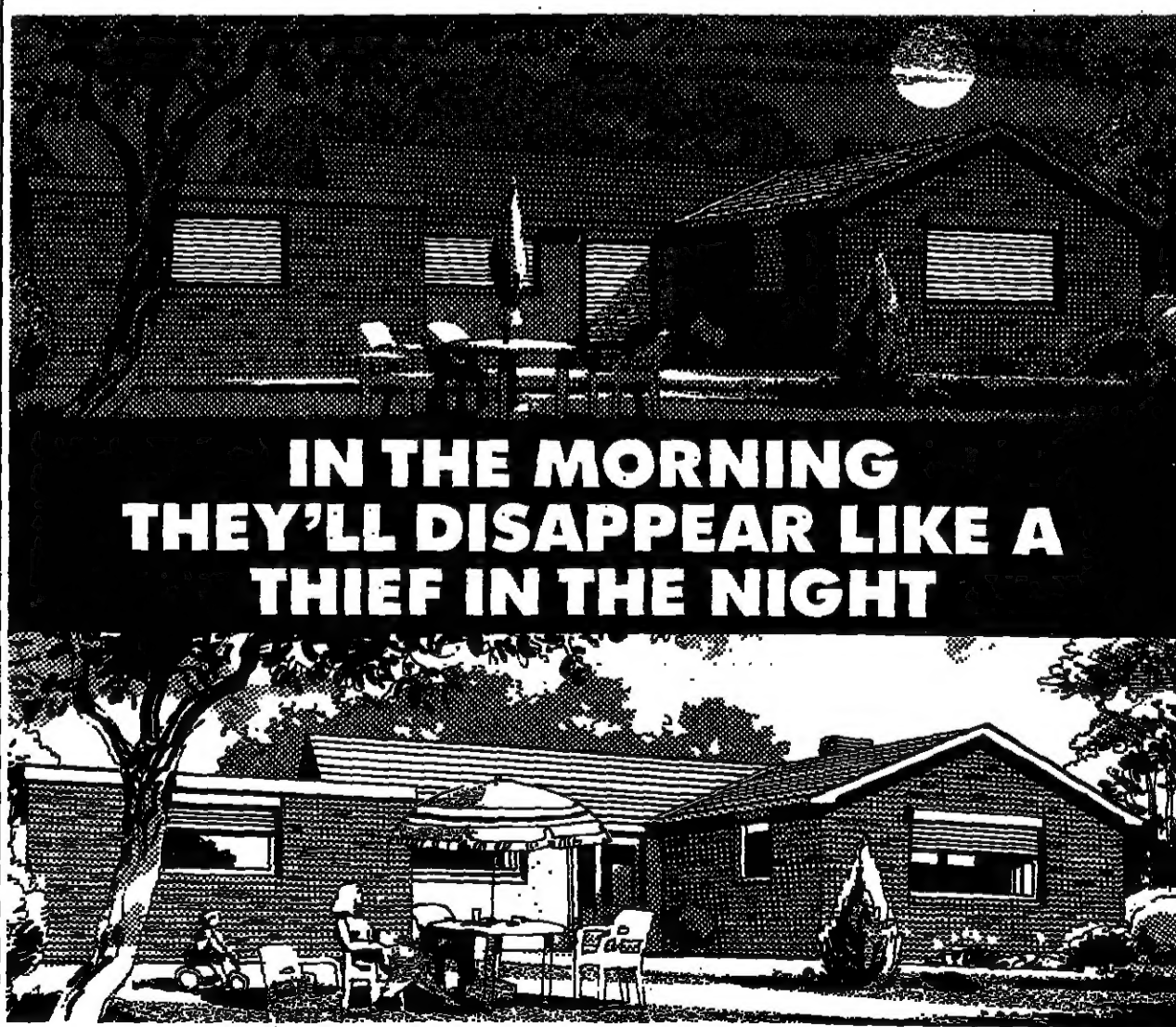
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False claims push up cost of holiday insurance

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

HOLIDAY insurance premiums will rise by up to a half after an upsurge in claims that has left many insurance companies' travel departments in the red.

At least 660,000 people claimed an average of £300 each for lost luggage, medical fees and cancellations last year. Many of the claims are believed to be fraudulent as families hit by the recession tried to offset the cost of their holidays.

Roger Crowther, operations manager for Home and Over-

seas Insurance, which covers about five million of the 11 million people who take out travel insurance each year, said: "Fraud has now become the prevalent pastime and there is no doubt that travel insurance premiums are now far too low."

"Many insurance companies are now facing severe losses as a result of the dramatic increase both in the number and amount of the claims being made. We shall simply refuse to accept business in the future unless the premiums are substantially increased to a realistic level."

Norwich Union has also suffered from increased claims and said its holiday premiums would rise by up to a half as a result.

"Many of the claims are, to say the least, dodgy," said a spokesman. "It is surprising to find that no suitcase is ever old. It was always bought yesterday. No one packs Marks and Spencer underwear any more. It is always Christian Dior or other designer labels. And, of course, no one has a receipt."

The Travellers Insurance Association, an offshoot of Commercial Union, said that claims had risen by at least 20 per cent over the past two years. "People are claiming for items that don't exist and hospitals around the world are passing on their own rising costs through patients who they know have travel insurance," it said.

The trend towards long-haul holidays has also hit the insurance companies. An increasing number of tourists who are taken ill are encountering the high medical expenses of the United States and the Far East.

Some of the blame for the problem can be laid at the door of the insurance companies. As new companies entered what appeared to be a lucrative market during the late Eighties, competition forced rates down and most holiday-makers were paying little more than £1 a person to cover a two-week holiday. When the market slumped, the insurers' income fell and this, coupled with the rise in claims, pushed them into a loss.

Police to pay riot victims

NORTHUMBRIA police authority has agreed to pay compensation for damage caused in the Tyneside riots. It is feared that the bill could reach several million pounds.

Shops and other businesses were burnt and looted in five nights of street violence last month. Yesterday members agreed that the unrest met the legal definition of rioting, making the authority liable for compensation.

The authority, which has already asked the home secretary for help with the £2 million cost of overtime and extra staff during the riots, is appealing for more money to help to pay the compensation.

Jail charges

Winson Green prison, Birmingham, was put on alert after a fake gun made from soap was found, it was disclosed yesterday as prison officers called security "a joke". Two men accused of conspiring to cause violent disorder were remanded to November 1.

Discount ban

An injunction taken out by publishers stopping Pentos Books from selling four books at discount through its Dillon's shops will remain after Pentos decided not to contest the order in the High Court. The books are among 22 offered at discount.



Rat down a drainpipe: Wyn Calvin, King Rat of the Grand Order of Water Rats, emerges from a tour of London sewers organised by Thames Water. Members of the showbusiness charity were invited underground after the water authority

hit upon the idea to demonstrate that the capital's sewers are rodent-free and in good repair. Thus the actress Ruth Madoc, the guitarist Bert Weedon and a variety of stars disappeared down a manhole by the London Palladium and Mr Calvin

emerged later to announce: "We are the only rats in the sewers." Thames Water is preparing to invest £810 million on sewers in London over the next ten years, with another £450 million being spent on the ring main.

Driver in fatal crash sent back to prison

A DRINK-DRIVER who served 28 days in prison for causing a friend's death was returned to jail for a longer sentence yesterday. The Court of Appeal said Edward Peter Dillon had been treated too leniently and increased his sentence to 12 months.

Dillon was nearly twice over the alcohol limit when he crashed his car, killing his passenger, James Sweeney. Dillon then drove away and abandoned the vehicle with Mr Sweeney's body beside it. He told police: "I was scared and frightened. I just wanted to get away."

Yesterday, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith said that Dillon, aged 28, of Oldham, Greater Manchester, had been distressed to lose a close friend, but aggravating features of the case were obvious and Judge Webster's sentence at Manchester crown court was outside the proper range.

Dillon had been sentenced in January after admitting causing death by reckless driving, drink driving and failing to stop after an accident. A longer sentence was sought by the Attorney-general.

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Dublin swoons on Beckett binge

By JAMIE DEITMER

Finished, it finished, nearly finished, it must be nearly finished.

DID any deputy or senator from Fianna Fáil, the main government party, recall last week the opening lines of Beckett's play *Endgame* as they struggled through their marathon midweek debate on the future of Charles Haughey the Irish prime minister? Did the politicians cry inwardly, "I can't be punished any more?"

Maybe as they realised that yet again the "boss", as Mr Haughey is nicknamed, had escaped his fate, they talk about the beginning of Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, and did they sympathise with Vladimir when he replies to Estragon's "Nothing to be done" with "I'm beginning to come round to that opinion?"

Dublin, a city obsessed



Beckett: the posthumous toast of old Dublin town

with politics and literature, is consumed with two passions at the moment: the leadership challenge on Mr Haughey and the ambitious Beckett festival.

Last week, the literary and political passions came together when the Beckett festival was opened by Mr Haughey. The festival is the brainchild of Michael Colgan, director of Dublin's Gate Theatre and Beckett devotee. Over the next three weeks, all 19 of Beckett's plays will be performed in Dublin and broadcast on radio and television.

Beckett approved of the planned festival before he died. Mr Colgan said the idea came when discussing with Beckett the set for a Gate production of *Waiting for Godot*. The play's directions are precise. "A country road. A tree. Evening." Mr Colgan wanted a sloped stage. "Beckett fixed me with those steely eyes of his and said: 'Keep it simple, Michael.' From that discussion Mr Colgan thought of the possibility of staging all Beckett's plays using the same core set or, as he says, "one great show in 19 scenes".

A new impetus for the festival came in 1989 with the death of Beckett, whose obituaries spoke of his death as a loss to France, where he spent most of his adult life. Mr Colgan felt he should reclaim Beckett's Ireland.

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Internal market anomalies may cause hospital work cuts



Sign of the times: political posters outside Guy's

HOSPITALS in London are in greater financial difficulties than those in other parts of the country, with several saying that they will have to cut workloads later this year or extend Christmas closures. Nine of the 12 undergraduate teaching hospitals in London are already overspent half way through the financial year, partly due to increased workloads and also due to a shortage of fee-earning referrals on top of those negotiated in block contracts last April. GPs in the shires are beginning to refer closer to home, where prices are often less than those of teaching hospitals bearing high labour costs and capital charges. The findings, in a survey by *The Times* of 57 trusts and 33 directly

managed hospitals, coincide with a decision, expected to be announced next week, by William Waldegrave, the health secretary, to set up an independent enquiry into effects of the internal market on London. He is concerned that if the market is allowed to "let rip", unplanned, haphazard ward closures will follow. Two of the seven London trusts are overspent, with Guy's trust heading for a £2 million deficit next year if it fails to take corrective steps. It has treated 10 per cent more patients under block contracts, for which it gets no extra pay, but drew 30 per cent fewer than expected extra-contractual referrals, for which it can charge. Directly managed hospitals,

Jill Sherman, continuing her survey of hospitals that are fending for themselves, finds the going harder in London

such as St Mary's, Paddington, Northwick Park, Harrow, and Charing Cross, in west London, are also heavily overspent. St Mary's is £450,000 overspent on a £70 million budget and this is likely to rise to £1 million before the end of the year unless it cuts its workload or makes further savings. A hospital spokesman said that ward closures might be needed to stop some elective work. The Christmas closure is expected to be extended and use of agency nurses reduced. The hospital is

changing its nursing skill mix, with fewer qualified staff. Northwick Park hospital has treated 20 per cent more cases than planned in the first half of the year and may have to close a ward to stop further "over-activity". John James, general manager of Parkside health authority, said: "Consultants have been working faster than planned and more day surgery has been done." The hospital hopes to attract more fee-earning extra-contractual referrals (ECRs). "We might have to cut

back on one ward surplus to the amount of space we need to meet the contracts already agreed," Mr James said. Charing Cross and Westminster hospitals are already £1.6 million overspent. They have had no increase in activity, but ECRs are 25 per cent less than expected and business expected from fund-holders is down by 37 per cent. St Bartholomew's, on the other hand, has attracted 17 per cent more ECRs than expected, mainly due to emergency and commuter work. However, it has treated 10 per cent more patients and is £50,000 overspent. It has already cut 300 posts and may have to close wards at Christmas. University College Hospital and

the Middlesex Hospital, now £750,000 overspent, may have to reduce activity this year to reduce a deficit, which is partly due to a 21 per cent shortfall in ECRs. Some hospitals, such as the Royal London Hospital Trust, St George's, Tooting, and the Royal Free, Hampstead, have stayed within budget. The Royal London puts this down to good belt-tightening, and St George's has won 30 per cent more ECRs than expected. St Thomas' hospital, which has had severe money problems in past years, is also doing better than most. Although £60,000 overspent and unable to reopen five wards shut last year, it expects to break even by the year's end without cutting its workload.

Discounts on new cars help to slow sales slump

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE decline in sales of new cars has slowed, according to figures published yesterday. However, the industry is not certain to what extent the market has been distorted by the plethora of discounts on garage forecourts in August and September.

Sales in September were 129,906, a fall of 17.4 per cent on the same month last year, said the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

The new figures continue the recovery since the middle of the year, when sales fell to their lowest for more than a decade, dropping by 31.18 per cent in June.

Car makers have spent millions of pounds on advertising, discounts to customers and incentives to dealers. Ford, Britain's biggest car company, is estimated to have spent £35 million in August as it led the way with price cuts of up to £2,000. The company says it will spend a further £11 million on advertising in the fourth quarter of the year.

Ford's September market share leapt to 29.36 per cent, the highest of the year, and its Escort, Fiesta and Sierra models claimed the top three best-selling slots.

Udo Kaul, Ford's director of marketing, announced this week that discounts due to run out this week would continue with up to £800 off 50,000 Orion and Escort models until December. He said: "We do not know exactly what effect the new price structure has had on the market. The recession seems to have bottomed out in July and we think we are on a gentle swing upwards now."

Vauxhall, which has the second biggest market share, has so far not decided to carry on matching Ford's discounts. Rover, however, is cutting between £300 and £600 from the price of some Metro and Rover 200/400 models.

Sales may have been "pulled forward" by the price cuts, which would mean a struggle to maintain momentum in the fourth quarter. The SMMT agrees that there may be a sharp drop in sales next month if the discounts are ended. A spokesman said: "By then I fear we will have returned to a state of depressing reality."

Ford estimates that sales for the year will be about 1.55 million, a substantial drop on the 2 million of 1990 and the record 2.3 million of 1989. The top ten best-selling cars in September were: 1, Ford Escort (11,008); 2, Ford Fiesta (10,886); 3, Ford Sierra (9,308); 4, Vauxhall Cavalier (8,968); 5, Rover 200 Series (4,692); 6, Ford Orion (4,574); 7, Peugeot 405 (3,599); 8, Rover Metro (3,539); 9, Peugeot 205 (3,143); 10, Vauxhall Nova (2,997).

Resist gun law, firms are told

ULSTER businessmen should resist demands for protection money from Loyalist and republican paramilitaries, Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, said yesterday. Their cash was helping to finance the campaign of terror in the country.

He told a European Community conference in Belfast: "I hope those who are paying up without telling the RUC search their consciences about the help they are affording terrorists to kill and maim others. There are many brave men and women protecting the community from terrorism who are betrayed by the process, which simply extends the lifespan of this scourge."

Ulster security chiefs believe several million pounds a year is paid by businessmen living in fear of being shot or having their companies bombed.

● Pearce McKenna, a trade unionist, was shot and seriously injured by Loyalist gunmen in Belfast yesterday.



Brooke: paying terrorists betrays brave men

Scots massacre site goes on sale

By KERRY GILL

A SMALL Scottish estate whose beauty belies its bloody history has been put on sale and is expected to fetch more than £1.5 million. The new owner will have the privilege of using the courtesy title Baron of Ochertyre.

The 205-acre Ochertyre estate on Tayside, which contains an Adam-style mansion house, stabling, cottages, two lochs, a 10th century ruined castle and grazing land, was the scene of a 16th century massacre. A dispute between clans resulted in 160 men, women and children being burnt to death in the church of Monzievaird in 1511.

The owners of the land, the Murrays, and others had taken sanctuary in the church but the Drummonds set it ablaze after someone inside fired a musket. Evidence of the massacre emerged almost three hundred years later with the discovery of a heap of

calcified bones and charred fabric. The ruined Cluggy Castle dates from about 1000 and was the seat of Red Cummin, who was killed by his rival Robert the Bruce. Ochertyre passed to the Murrays in 1467 and they retained the lands for more than five centuries until 1976. The eldest son of each generation succeeded his father, an unusual feat for a Scottish family, given the turbulent history of the area.

Ochertyre house was built between 1784 and 1790. In 1787 Robert Burns stayed on the estate, which covered about 12,000 acres until the 1950s, and in tribute to the beauty of Euphemia Murray he wrote *Blyth Was She*.

The estate, to be sold by Bidwells, is two miles from Crieff and 20 miles from Perth. Within the wooded grounds is Loch Monzievaird, used as a fishery, and St Serf's loch. The main house is now a restaurant.



Freedom of the forest: Eddie Pierce, farm manager, watches over some of the thousands of free-range turkeys that his company is rearing in larch woods on the Hambleton Hills, North Yorkshire (Michael Horneby writes). Farmers' Glory, a turkey-processing company of Newby Wiske, reared birds on grassland before rearing the woods from the

Forestry Commission. Les Brown, the managing director, said yesterday: "The advantage of the forest is that it is well drained and provides the birds with more interest and exercise. Turkeys become bored easily and that can lead to fighting and pecking." The birds forage and are fed rationed food. Mr Brown says contain no anti-biotics, weight-

enhancing drugs or animal by-products. They are raised indoors until the age of six to eight weeks and live in the forest until they are slaughtered at 14 to 18 weeks. Each bird has more than twice the European Community minimum space for free-range poultry. At night and in bad weather they shelter in straw-bale houses. The

first 1,000 birds were introduced to the forest in July. They sold in butcher's shops for £1.10 a lb, more than twice the price of the most widely sold, over-ready turkeys. Mr Brown is confident, however, that consumers will pay more for a better flavour and texture, and hopes to have 8,000 birds ready for the Christmas market.

Bishop challenges ethical base of church investment

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE battle between God and mammon enters the High Court on Monday with a case that could have ramifications for charities throughout Britain and which will challenge the principles underlying church investment.

The Bishop of Oxford, the Right Rev Richard Harries, is suing the church commissioners over their investment policy. He says that they should take into account Church of England ethics when they make investments.

The commissioners, who invest and manage more than £2.4 billion of church assets and who are responsible for paying more than 3,500 clergy salaries and 10,000 pensions,

argue that their financial duties to their dependents are paramount.

The case will hinge on the interpretation of the four statutes under which the commissioners operate: the Queen Anne's Bounty Act of 1703 and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners Acts of 1836, 1840 and 1850.

The commissioners argue that the 1984 Megarry judgment, in the case of Cowan v Arthur Scargill in the Chancery division over the duties of the trustees of a pension fund, sets a precedent in favour of their ethical investment policy: they avoid investment in companies whose main business is to-

bacoon, drink, armaments, gambling and newspapers. The bishop believes that they should go further and set "a strong moral lead in the world of financial management". The crux of the bishop's complaint is that where an "ethical" investment carries a financial penalty, it is avoided by the commissioners.

Andrew Phillips, the bishop's solicitor, said: "The Achilles heel of modern capitalism is its failure to take a holistic view of what it does. That is not to say it has become immoral, more that it has become amoral. The outcome of this case should reverberate throughout the whole of the charity sector."

Aids virus 'infects 5,000 every day'

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

FIVE thousand people a day are becoming infected with the Aids virus, the World Health Organisation said yesterday. The organisation predicts that 30 to 40 million men, women and children will have been infected with HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus, by the year 2000.

Figures published by WHO yesterday estimate that about 10 million people worldwide have the infection, of whom about 1.5 million are thought to have developed Aids.

In its latest quarterly update, WHO records an increase of 46,600 recorded cases of full-blown Aids in 163 countries, giving a cumulative total of 418,403 known

sufferers in the past ten years. The rise of more than 10 per cent is regarded by the organisation as an under-estimate. "While most if not all HIV-infected people are expected ultimately to develop Aids, this takes an average of ten years. The current number of Aids cases thus reflects the HIV infections acquired a decade ago," the report says.

A geographical breakdown of cases shows 191,601 reported in America, 119,983 in Africa, 56,380 in Europe, including 4,758 in the UK, with smaller numbers in central and South America, the Mediterranean region, south-east Asia and the nations of the western Pacific.

Nurse in drink-drive killing is jailed

A nurse who had drunk more than twice the legal limit drove into a boy aged five and killed him in front of his mother at a school crossing.

Janet Bekka, aged 53, was jailed for two years at Dorchester crown court after she admitted causing death by reckless driving.

Without stopping, Bekka had driven off to her home in Hamworthy, Dorset, the court was told. There she phoned the police and admitted the killing. She also told them that she had been moving house that day following a broken relationship. She was "traumatised" by the move and had not seen the boy.

Flock slaughter

About 70,000 chickens have been slaughtered at a poultry farm near Chelmsford, Essex, after an investigation into an outbreak of salmonella poisoning which affected 150 people in July.

No salvation

The Salvation Army has shut its printing works at St Albans, Hertfordshire, where its newspaper, *War Cry*, is published, after deciding renovation was uneconomic. The paper is to be printed by contract.

Factory death

An enquiry was under way after a worker was crushed to death in a vegetable press at the Coventry Garden Soup Company's factory in Willesden, northwest London.

Crewman lost

A crewman, aged 24, was missing feared drowned after he failed to turn up for watch on a tanker, the British Wye, off the Isles of Scilly.

Lake slow down

A speed limit of 10mph on Windermere is likely after the Countryside Commission said it would support the proposal by the Lake District Special Planning Board.

Red alert

A fire engine, answering an emergency call in Dublin, caught fire because of a wiring fault and had to call the fire brigade. The original call turned out to be a false alarm.

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Brita
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Envoy
replies
to statue
protest

Support call

Spy chief bailed

Julia Ro

Britain accepts EC goal of a united policy on defence

By GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE British government acknowledged for the first time yesterday that the European Community might one day have its own armed forces.

In a joint paper with Italy, submitted to EC foreign ministers meeting this weekend to discuss foreign policy and defence, Britain admits that closer union implies "a stronger European defence identity with the longer-term perspective of a common defence policy". The document suggests, however, that the EC should use the Western European Union and the "European pillar" of Nato as the "defence component of the [EC] union".

The paper repeats the British plan for the WEU to develop a "European reaction force" which could be used outside the Nato area, "for

example in response to threats to the interests of WEU members or in peacekeeping operations". The document, proposed in April by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Gianni De Michelis, the Italian foreign minister, reflects concern in both countries that European defence should not be severed from Nato, and that the transatlantic link must remain central to any EC structure.

Drawn up in secrecy and completed only last week, the paper represents concessions by both countries which were once far apart: Britain recognises a much bigger role for the community, even after enlargement, in defence; and Italy admits that such a role must be explicitly linked to Nato. The paper sees the need for Europe's defence decisions

to be open to the non-EC Nato members such as the United States, Canada, Turkey and Norway.

British officials confirmed that the government would no longer oppose outright the possibility that the EC would absorb the WEU and its armed forces. They emphasised, however, that Britain saw this as unlikely. Washington expressed alarm earlier this year at the prospect that it might face a closed EC caucus within Nato. "If we felt that by doing this we would be damaging the alliance, we wouldn't be doing it," one official said yesterday.

With nine weeks to go before the EC summit at Maastricht, the Anglo-Italian paper aims to bridge a gap in what has been one of the most difficult issues in the treaty talks. Since the beginning of the year, one group of states led by France has tried to insert clauses in the treaty which would endow a future EC with a defence policy that would be independent of the existing Atlantic alliance. A rival group led by Britain and The Netherlands has insisted that any integration of European defence should be done within Nato. Yesterday's Anglo-Italian paper leans a little further towards the French insistence on a role for the EC while retaining the Nato framework.

The launch of the Anglo-Italian document yesterday is also an attempt to set the agenda on defence in the last phase of the treaty talks and before the Nato summit in Rome in early November.



De Michelis: concerned to retain Nato link

Significantly, Britain has put down its plans in a formal paper. Until now the government has been reluctant to go into detail about its proposals; the running has therefore often been left to the French and Germans, and to federalists who have launched visionary plans for union. Britain believes that defence and foreign policy cannot be dealt with in the same community framework as other issues, and that the Franco-German proposals on the issue glossed over the practical difficulties of trying to do so.

Letters, page 15

Envoy replies to statue protest

THE British government and people "greatly regret" the suffering which occurred on all sides in the second world war, Sir Christopher Mallaby, Britain's ambassador in Bonn, has told German mayors who have written to protest against plans for a statue to Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris.

In a letter of reply to the mayors, the ambassador explained that the memorial was raised by private subscription and had no connection with the government. Letters of complaint from the mayors and members of the public are to be passed on to the Bomber Command Association, which has collected the money for the £100,000 statue to be erected outside Saint Clement Dames in The Strand.

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Support call

Gibraltar - Joe Bossano, the chief minister of Gibraltar, has called on the Commonwealth government leaders to support him in rejecting the British and Spanish view that the Treaty of Utrecht "precludes, prevents and deprives" Gibraltarians from self-determination. He said Gibraltarians should be able to call for independence. He also called for Gibraltar to be at any talks on decolonisation.

Spy chief bailed

Bonn - Markus Wolf, the former East German spy chief, was freed on bail of £85,000 while the courts decide whether he should go on trial for treason. He was arrested when he crossed into Germany from Austria, where he had sought asylum in vain.

Battle to control Georgia steps up

From ROBERT SEELY IN TBILISI

FERCE fighting on the outskirts of the Georgian capital between rebel national guards and forces loyal to President Gamsakhurdia left one man dead and several others wounded yesterday. It was one of the bloodiest clashes in a month-long effort to oust the president.

After the gun battle, several thousand opposition demonstrators spent the afternoon trapped in Tbilisi's main street, Rustaveli Prospect, hemmed in by two groups supporting Mr Gamsakhurdia. Rival speakers heckled one another through megaphones as their opponents jeered and waved their fists.

Crowds began to gather earlier in the day to demand revenge for the attack on Tengiz, Kiovan's national guardmen who started their withdrawal from the capital on Thursday night. The clashes took place on the northern side of the Tbilisi Sea, an artificial lake ten miles from the city centre. Several Georgian police officers were also taken captive.

The mood among the protesters was ugly. Standing barely ten feet apart in some places, the confrontation between the two camps threatened to ignite street violence throughout the city. "Gamsakhurdia is going to die tonight," shouted one demonstrator.

The president yesterday appealed to his supporters to defend him, drawing Georgians from all over the city and others who have flocked in from the provinces to the republic's parliament building.



March to the sea: Yugoslav federal soldiers celebrating their victory yesterday after capturing Dubrovnik's Cilli airport, just 11 miles from the coastal Croatian city. Army attacks continued in the area all day

Air raids drown talk of peace

Christopher Walker reports that in Croatia the war is going on as usual despite a new agreement in The Hague on a Yugoslav solution

NEWS of the political agreement in The Hague was less than an hour old when the first federal air force jets to attack Zagreb for more than two weeks fired rockets which damaged the main transmitter of Croatian television only five miles from the city centre.

The ominous wailing of air raid sirens, which have been silent for 11 days, sent hundreds of thousands of people rushing for cover during the afternoon rush hour and reinforced popular scepticism that the new agreement will succeed. Six ceasefires have collapsed. Later an eerie blackout was reimposed for the first time since the last ceasefire on September 22.

Elsewhere in the embattled breakaway republic, fierce fighting overshadowed the peace talks in The Hague and thousands of new refugees fled on the roads after their villages were hit by artillery

shells, mortars and in one case, cluster bombs. The warlike atmosphere was heightened by a report issued by Tanjug, the Yugoslav news agency, that the Serb-run presidency had ordered a partial mobilization. In Zagreb Stipe Mesic, the Croat chairman of the Yugoslav presidency, announced that Croatia would hit back "with all means at our disposal" if the Hague agreement did not bring an end to attacks "by the end of this day".

Mr Mesic claimed that the Serbian army, by virtue of the takeover of the presidency in Belgrade, had "declared a 'punch'". He accused General Veljko Kadijevic, the federal defence minister and one of the main participants in the Hague agreement, of issuing a declaration of war against Croatia on Thursday night.

Even before the air raid warning, Zagreb had again been placed on a war footing with reinforcements placed around public buildings and a mobilisation of male volunteers. The rockets put Croatian television off the air for only an hour. It came on again, although with a much weakened picture, relaying its grim fare of damage, death and destruction throughout the republic. Television has become an important weapon

Ethnic squabble sinks Martens

From DENISE CLAVELOUX IN BRUSSELS

EUROPE's longest-serving prime minister, Wilfried Martens of Belgium, was last night forced to tender his resignation when he could no longer hold together his centre-left coalition government. For 12 years Mr Martens, aged 56, has steered nine successive governments through the linguistic and regional battles dividing the Flemish and Walloon communities.

The clash which succeeded in bringing down the government started when Flemish political parties opposed granting export licenses for sales of arms to the Middle East for two manufacturers, both of which were in French-speaking Wallonia. In retaliation, Walloon political parties opposed granting telecommunications contracts

which would benefit companies in the Flemish region. Despite their opposition, Marcel Colla, the telecommunications minister, signed the contracts without the cabinet's backing. French-speaking ministers then said they would block the deal unless there was agreement that the revenue from television licences was transferred to the regions so it could be used for schools in Wallonia.

Disagreement over the use of television licence revenue was the straw that broke the government's back. The Flemish federalist Volksunie party had already quit the government last weekend over the arms export row. Mr Martens was forced to suspend this week's cabinet meeting, described by observers as "chaotic", when he failed to make peace between the warring Flemish and Walloons.

It is up to King Baudouin to accept Mr Martens' resignation. As a general election is scheduled for January 19, it is likely that the king will ask Mr Martens to stay on to head a caretaker government. Political analysts say the elections could be brought forward to as early as mid-November.

Mr Martens, a Flemish Christian Socialist, has succeeded in bringing a degree of political stability previously unknown in Belgium. He has pushed through controversial schemes to devolve considerable powers from the central government to regional executives. These have considerably cooled linguistic and regional squabbles.

Walesa seeks UN force in Europe

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

PRESIDENT Walesa gave a warning yesterday that ethnic conflicts in Yugoslavia and the rest of the Balkans could disrupt attempts to integrate East and West Europe.

The Polish leader, who holds talks in Cracow this weekend with President Havel of Czechoslovakia and the Hungarian prime minister, Jozsef Antall, believes the three countries should agree a policy on Nato in order to anchor the security of Central Europe. "Nato in turn should work out a new strategy in relation to our countries and thus consolidate its all-European role," he said.

Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia all wanted "an international armed force in Europe under the auspices of the United Nations," he went on. "The very existence of such a force would... have a calming effect, prevent tragic explosions."

This time last year they were competing for Western investment and jostling for attention from the European Community. In so far as they had a foreign policy towards each other, it was based on bilateral accords. Now - as all three realise - they are stuck in the EC waiting room for some time, and as the smell of Yugoslav cordite drifts northwards - the emphasis has shifted to collective security. The fear is that the seeds of the Yugoslav conflict are also buried in their countries where ethnic minorities are squeezed tightly together.

"Tension is growing throughout the region," said Adam Michnik, the Polish commentator and editor, yesterday. "There are Hungarians in Slovakia and Romania, Turks in Bulgaria, Poles in Lithuania. The communist utopia is being replaced by the utopia of an ethnically pure state."

"Hungary in particular has problems. Its nationalist government, committed to defending minorities outside its borders, is confronted with a Yugoslav army that is pressing Magyarians into a dirty war, the possibility of a marriage between Romania and Moldavia that would spell problems for Hungarian communities in Transylvania, and the rise of national politics in Slovakia and the Ukraine that could well turn nasty on the Hungarians there."

Police rape case stirs French fears

Philip Jacobson reports from Paris that the rape of a woman by a policeman with Aids has once again focused France's attention on the conduct of its police force

The tragic case of a young French woman who was raped by a police officer a few days after he learnt that he had Aids is again focusing the nation's attention on the conduct of its police force. The incident comes at a time when six other officers are in court on allegations of organising numerous armed robberies and another has just been charged with shooting dead a young man in questionable circumstances.

The rape of Alexandra F. took place in the central police station in Sevran, near Paris, at the end of August, but she discovered only recently that the policeman responsible, Philippe Gagnon, had tested HIV-positive just before attacking her. Worse, she was not told by the police authorities, nor by the doctors who treated her, nor by the court that had remanded M Gagnon in custody; instead she read about it in the French press.

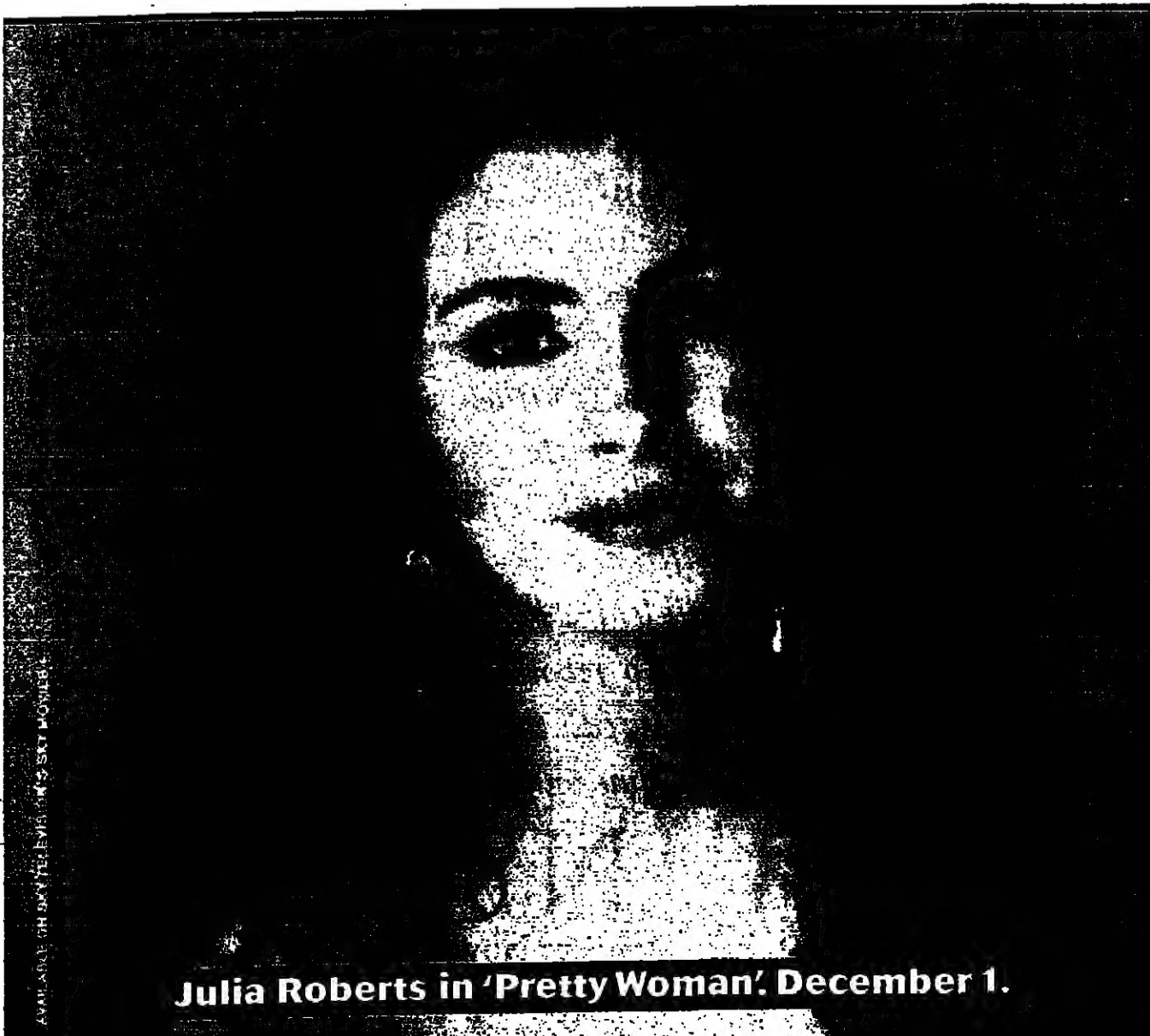
An Aids test on Alexandra proved negative, but specialists say she will have to wait for up to six months before learning anything definite. "You can imagine what torment this poor woman is going through," says her lawyer. "Day after day between life and death, asking herself what fate will bring."

Alexandra, aged 26, agreed to talk to the newspaper, *France-Soir*, in the office of Habeus Corpus, an organisation that investigates complaints of abuse of power by the police. "When I realised what had happened to me, that instead of the worst being over, the horror was just beginning, I could barely stand it."

By any standards, Alexandra's life up to then had been hard enough: her father was serving a long jail sentence, and she had drifted into drug abuse in the grim suburb where she lived, then cured herself of addiction and married only to separate and lose custody of her son. She had been detained overnight by the Sevran police on suspicion of involvement in a theft just before dawn, having locked up the station, M Gagnon dragged her from a holding cell into the showers where he raped her in front of a junior officer.

Two weeks after her ordeal, knowing nothing of what was to come, Alexandra slashed her wrist but she was taken to hospital in time. Since then, sustained and encouraged by Habeus Corpus, she has rallied, preparing herself for the ordeal of M Gagnon's trial. "I want to have retrieved my dignity by then, to have a job and somewhere to live with my son. I just pray that I will be strong enough, that I won't have Aids." As for M Gagnon, "I don't wish anything particular for him, since he's going to die anyway."

Meanwhile, the Paris assize court is considering the damaging affair of the six officers - three belonging to the crack Anti-Banditry Squad - accused, in a 110-page dossier, of taking part in eight hold-ups in 18 months. They were first arrested more than five years ago. But innumerable obstacles have been put in the way of their final trial, apparently caused by official reluctance to have the matter aired in public.



Julia Roberts in 'Pretty Woman' December 1.

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At school you simply don't know how to mix. So you take out your anger and frustration by bullying other children.

You're always in trouble. It's the only way you know of getting some attention.

For once though, you've done some good work. You take it home to show your parents but they laugh at you and call you "thicko" and "ugly." Then they tell you to "---- off" out of their sight.

You go down to the park and sit under that same tree you always do. You've pinched a half-full bottle of scotch from your dad. It helps to numb the pain.

Children like Simon don't want



pity. They want help. Maybe you know a child who you suspect is being emotionally abused. Please don't leave the child at risk by just hoping for the best.

And don't be put off because you're worried about splitting up

the family. This only happens in very extreme cases.

When a case is reported to us, an NSPCC Child Protection Officer or Local Authority social worker may visit the child's home.

After this, we then make a careful assessment of the family to identify why the parents have been mistreating their child. In numerous cases, they don't even realise they've been doing wrong. A period of counselling may then follow which can involve helping the parents learn how to love and understand their children.

Of course, reporting a case isn't the only way you can help.

We're always crying out for more donations. 80% of our funding relies on the public's generosity.

But, above all, please keep a look out for children like Simon.

They may not look abused. But looks can be cruelly deceiving.

For further information on the work of the NSPCC, or to make a donation, write to: NSPCC, 67 Saffron Hill, London, EC1N 8RS or call 071-242 1626.

To report a suspected case of child abuse, call the NSPCC Child Protection Helpline on 0800 800 500.

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Send threat
detected
by Seoul

Money chase

Housewives' flu

Manila's
hope fade



Diet caught off guard as Kaifu opts to bow out

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

JAPAN's political establishment was caught off guard yesterday when Toshiki Kaifu, the prime minister, said he would not be standing for re-election when his term expires at the end of this month.

All the indications had pointed to a second term for Mr Kaifu, who has pushed public approval of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to an all-time high of 55 per cent. The party is scheduled to hold its election for party president on October 27. The winner will become prime minister automatically because the

party controls the lower house of the Diet.

Yesterday's decision was not Mr Kaifu's own. It was made for him by the leaders of the Takeshita faction, to which he owes his party support and which has controlled him, according to the influential *Asahi* newspaper, "like a puppet".

Withdrawal of the Takeshita faction's backing came after a turbulent week in which three political reform bills failed. Mr Kaifu had staked his career on the legislation, first proposed two years ago in the wake of the Recruit bribery scandal.

The ill-fated Mr Kaifu has never had much choice but to do the bidding of his masters in the Takeshita faction. An obscure backbencher from the party's smallest faction, Mr Kaifu became prime minister in August 1989. He was always marked as a fill-in to keep the seat warm until a more serious candidate came along. Few thought he would last a few months, let alone two years. That he has been allowed to stay on so long has less to do with his own abilities than with the absence of other suitable candidates.

During the Gulf war, it was carefully put about that the prime minister blundered by criticising the allies' view that Japan's contribution was too little, too late. He suffered the additional indignity of witnessing the collapse of his own proposed legislation, designed to send troops to the Gulf under the auspices of the United Nations. His subsequent attempts to revive the "peacekeeping operations" bill have got nowhere. He has also been sharply criticised on domestic policy this week over his failed political reform project.

Mr Kaifu has little to show for his unhappy term apart from his high popularity ratings. An amiable man, and one who has been harried relentlessly by the more venal elements in his party, he has won the sympathy of more people than any other postwar prime minister. Given the loud pledges by those disgraced in the Recruit scandal to win the support of the electorate and clean up the party, it is ironic that they are dumping him now.

Scud threat detected by Seoul

Seoul — North Korea has successfully tested a mobile launcher for its Scud C missiles, which could hit all of South Korea and parts of western Japan, according to an intelligence report presented to the South Korean parliament yesterday.

The launcher was developed because the allies had attacked Iraq's fixed launchers during the Gulf war, the report said. A Scud C missile with a range of 310 miles had been fired and North Korea was now developing missiles capable of double that distance. The report also said North Korea had deployed light aircraft, midjet submarines and hovercraft for commando raids on the South. (Reuters)

Money chase

Manila — The Philippines government has filed a civil complaint to recover \$356 million (£203 million) belonging to the late President Marcos's family, seeking to win forfeiture of his assets in Swiss bank accounts. His widow, Imelda, will now delay her return to Manila to face tax evasion charges.

Housewives' flu

Sydney — Housewives are more likely to suffer Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, known as "yuppie flu", than any other group, according to Dr Mark Donohue, director of Sydney's Environmental Medicine Centre. (Reuters)

Manila's flame of hope fades to ashes

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN MANILA

THE grey rain, mixed with dust and grit, falls continuously, and there is an atmosphere that belies Manila's location in the tropics. Families camped under corrugated-iron sheeting huddled together for comfort.

Children's hands reach through taxi windows for alms. A woman stoops to eat food from a rubbish bin outside a restaurant. Jobless squatters, looking like zombies, lie asleep in Rizal Park. The usual demonstrators cluster outside the American embassy, shouting, shouting.



Aquino: sees danger in talks with army rebels
gans. Manila has a worn-out look and feel. Decay is everywhere.

On these wet days towards the end of the rainy season, the capital resembles nothing so much as the set of a horror film about the world after a nuclear holocaust. At an airline office, the wheezing air conditioning starts vibrating in the wall, a door swings open by itself. The employees flee into the street and across the road. The building seems to be swaying. It is an earth tremor.

The newspapers are full of foreboding. More mud has been sliding down the slopes of the volcano, Mount Pinatubo. There are out-

break of dengue fever. The American bases are to go, their further lease rejected by the Philippines senate. Imelda Marcos, the widow of the late president, Ferdinand Marcos, is to return from exile with or without her husband's corpse.

Army rebels were talking secretly with army chiefs on a deal for surrender, and President Aquino is clearly not pleased. More members of the communist New People's Army have turned themselves in. It must be depressing for them to listen to Radio Moscow these days. How can you fight for socialism when in the heartland of revolution the revolution has turned to ashes? And how can the rank and file back a movement that praised the Chinese government's action at Tiananmen Square and backed the Soviet coup attempt. The people's army has only failed because it, too, is inept, and out of step with popular thinking.

For if ever there was a country that needed the threat of communism to get its feudal chieftains to look beyond selfish interests, it is the Philippines, now sunk to one of Asia's poorest. Land reform is urgent, but leading families in this nation of 62 million, including that of President Aquino, give as little as possible. Asian communism may have failed in China and Vietnam, but "democracy" and "capitalism" — seen from here — seem little better as an alternative.

It is five years since the "people power" revolution, when some in this deeply Catholic country said they had seen the Virgin Mary walking, among demonstrators against the Marcos regime. But the dreams conjured up then have turned to ashes.



Day of reckoning: Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, in sombre mood in the parliament yesterday after announcing that he will not seek a second term

Bhopal gas victims choke on compensation deal

ALONG with half a million Bhopal gas victims, Lal Vishwakarma receives 200 rupees (less than £5) a month in compensation. He can barely catch his breath to speak: the words he does manage to utter are filled with bitterness.

He said it took his daughter two-and-a-half years to die after inhaling gas from the Union Carbide's pesticide plant, just across the street from his shanty. Her death, because it did not come immediately after the gas leak nearly seven years ago, has brought only 1,500 rupees in compensation. If she had died straight away, he would have received 10,000 rupees. Explaining this bizarre bureaucratic logic leaves Mr Vishwakarma choking for air.

He is a carpenter by trade, but he has spent the past seven years lying on a charpoy, summoning the strength once a month to go to the bank for his hand-out. He said he had heard on the radio that the Indian Supreme Court had on Thursday upheld final compensation by Union Carbide of \$470 million (£268 million). "Not enough," he said. "No amount is enough."

The Indian government has been paying interim compensation to people like Mr Vishwakarma since April

Christopher Thomas reports from Bhopal that corruption and red tape will drag out payments to the gas disaster victims

enough to cover the interim payments it has been making for the past 18 months. Claimants have calculated that there will be enough left to give each victim about 20,000 rupees (£460) — the equivalent of about two years' wages for a typical slum dweller.

There are fears that officials will siphon off a good deal of the money. It is common knowledge that in Bhopal a passbook entitling a person to compensation can be bought easily from bureaucrats and even genuine victims have to pay bribes to get passbooks. Staff at the three government hospitals and six dispensaries set aside to treat the gas victims free of charge have stolen and sold medicines, forcing patients to buy them on the open market.

State officials in Madhya Pradesh, of which Bhopal is the capital, are beginning to tackle the distribution of the money — assuming that it is not frozen in the meantime by further litigation. A range of complex questions have to be resolved: should the money be given in lump sum or monthly payments? How much is each category of each injury worth? Should funds be set aside for the next generation, many of whom are being born with serious health problems?

Union Carbide deposited the \$470 million settlement in March 1989 and it has been earning interest in nationalised banks since then. The government plans to take out

Mesgre as the interim compensation has been, it has caused significant distortions in purchasing power among Bhopal's poor. Families collecting 1,000 rupees a month as well as the wages brought in by those fit enough to work are the elite of the slums. Their comparative prosperity has driven up the prices of basic commodities. Many have taken hefty loans from money lenders in the expectation of a windfall, even though it may take years to arrive.

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Seized papers show Iraq tried to build nuclear missiles

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

DOCUMENTS seized by United Nations inspectors in Baghdad reveal that Iraq was trying to build nuclear-armed surface-to-surface missiles, and that the secret programme was headed by a British-educated scientist, *The Times* has been informed.

A confidential preliminary report of the UN team twice detained in Baghdad last month says the mission uncovered conclusive evidence that Iraq had a secret programme code-named "Petrochemical Three" (PC-3) to build an implosion-type nuclear bomb. The inspectors also found evidence that Baghdad was developing a missile delivery system for the weapon.

The report names Dr Jaffar Dhia Jaffar, who was educated at Birmingham and London universities, as the leader of the overall nuclear weapons programme. The UN team says that Iraq "still has substantial facilities which were part of the clandestine programme and which have not been declared". But UN inspectors do not know how close Iraq is to developing a nuclear bomb.

"One document points to Iraqi success in the machining of nuclear weapons components from natural uranium, but it is not clear from the document whether they had enough highly enriched uranium for an actual explosive device," the report says. The

A British-educated scientist was heading the weapons research programme, writes James Bone from New York

inspection team, which was held in a Baghdad car park for five days, reports that nuclear weapons design work was conducted at Al Atheer — a facility that Iraq denied had any connection to its nuclear programme. "A top secret report states that the Al Atheer facility was to design and produce a nuclear device," the team says. The inspection team also found evidence that Iraq possessed sophisticated computer codes used in the development of nuclear weapons. These codes included "one- and two-dimensional hydrodynamic and neutronic models which simulate the behaviour of nuclear weapons as they are being fired."

The documents on Al Atheer suggest Iraq was developing a missile delivery system in parallel with its nuclear weapons work. In one top secret document, the Iraqi ministry of defence ordered an experiment postponed until after a surface-to-surface missile test.

The documents reveal that "Iraq conducted substantial nuclear-weapons related procurement from foreign

sources" although many items purchased had dual uses, did not require export licences and were supplied before the UN trade embargo imposed after the invasion of Kuwait.

"At the PC-3 headquarters, the team found many volumes of documents related to procurement for the Iraqi nuclear weapons programme," the UN report says. "A number of cover names used by Iraq in its procurement activities have been identified, and it is expected that this number will grow as further procurement records are translated." UN inspectors have concluded that the secret Iraqi nuclear weapons programme was under the general control of the ministry of industry and military industrialisation, "with specific control assigned to PC-3".

Some part of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission was also involved, as did the ministry of defence. The report says the documents show that Dr Jaffar was a senior administrator for the Iraqi nuclear weapons programme, and was intimately linked to uranium enrichment efforts as well.

"The team accordingly believes that Dr Jaffar had the lead technical and administrative responsibility for the nuclear weapons programme as a whole — despite his repeated claims that no such programme existed," the report says.



Keeping watch: Haitian soldiers and police patrolling the mostly deserted streets of Port-au-Prince yesterday. Many of the city's businesses have stayed closed since the military coup against President Aristide

Bitterness flares in Haiti tinderbox

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

DRIVE north from Port-au-Prince along a pitted expanse of rubble called the Boulevard Harry Truman and you come to Carrefour, the slum where perhaps half the Haitian capital's population lives, where an annual family income rarely exceeds \$350 (£200).

Shanty homes line open sewers. The streets are littered with wreckage of cars and mounds of rubbish scavenged by goats

and skeletal dogs while pigs root in drains. Emaciated, bare-chested men labour to haul carts laden with bags of rice or charcoal.

This is where Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the president deposed by the Haitian army last Monday, was born and raised. This is the heartland of his support, where the fighting cock symbol of his grassroots "Lavalas" move-

ment appears in a thousand colourful permutations on every wall. It is where in the early hours of the coup that the people trapped a soldier, put a tyre around his neck and set it alight.

The practice has for decades been the traditional form of mob justice in a country run by dictators. In this case, the burning provoked swift retribution. More than 40 Haitians have subsequently been shot dead in Carrefour by marauding bands of soldiers seeking vengeance.

This is the country's tinderbox and everyone knows it. Yesterday patrols of soldiers in commandeered vehicles bristling with automatic weapons were still careering at high speed around the narrow streets, watching for the first signs of disturbance in a population seething with resentment. Five days after the coup, nothing gives in Port-au-Prince.

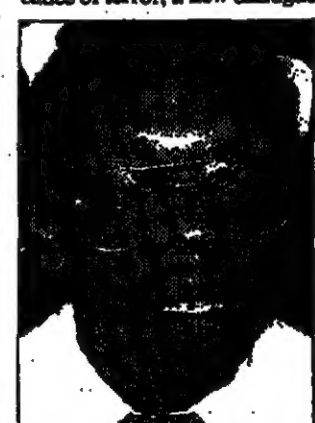
The masses, their political consciences awakened by Haiti's first truly democratic election in its 187-year history last December, are united as rarely before. Public meetings and demonstrations are banned, and Father Aristide's most prominent political supporters are in hiding, but the city is now paralysed by an almost total general strike. Everything is closed, from the ports to the smallest shops. Rubbish is piling up in the streets. Hotels are short of food.

A high-level delegation from the Organisation of American States (OAS) arrived from Washington yesterday afternoon to insist on Father Aristide's restoration. "The return of the duly elected and constitutional president is not negotiable," declared Elsa Boucheciempe, the Venezuelan ambassador before the meeting began.

The army was equally insistent that he could never return. It was planning to present the OAS delegation

with a dossier of alleged constitutional outrages perpetrated by Father Aristide during his brief presidency. These ranged from condoning assassinations of opponents to the intimidation of parliament and the training of a private militia — a sensitive issue in a nation where the infamous Tonton Macoute of the Duvalier dictators remain a vivid memory.

Western diplomats acknowledge there may be some truth to these charges: in an inflammatory speech in a poor area of Port-au-Prince last weekend Father Aristide said the will of the people transcended the constitution. However, the diplomats insist these violations were far outweighed by the gains of the past nine months — economic restructuring, an end to decades of terror, a new dialogue



Aristide: brought end to decades of terror

with the army and greater individual security.

The eventual outcome of this week's coup is still impossible to divine, but it is only a matter of time before economic sanctions imposed on the poorest country in the Western hemisphere begin to bite hard. "A population of six million people cut off from the rest of the world cannot survive," one senior Western diplomat said yesterday.

Cruising into a black comedy

By MARTIN FLETCHER

TWENTY-FIVE years after Graham Greene's novel *The Comedians* comes *Comedians II*. The setting is again Haiti, but this time the story is not of the dictators Papa and Baby Doc Duvalier but of real comedians: Mike Hope and Albie Keen of the 1970s BBC comedy series *Hope and Keen*.

Last Saturday, about to fly home from Florida after entertaining passengers on a Caribbean cruise, they were asked to join another ship in Haiti. They duly flew to Port-au-Prince, landed at 7.15 on Sunday evening and took a taxi to the hotel Villa Creole.

Within minutes, the city exploded in gunfire. Mistaking the noise for a fiesta and exhausted by their journey, Messrs Hope and Keen fell asleep. They realised they were in mid-coup only on waking at 5am to automatic gunfire outside and palls of smoke above the city. "It was carping, terrifying," said Mr Hope. "We ended up hiding in the bathroom."

The two comedians have not left the hotel since. They spent the week playing cards, swimming and entertaining not a liner full of wealthy Americans but four Pentecostal missionaries from Florida, three Mexican oilmen, two American relief workers and the Texan managers of Haitian land and women's lingerie factories.

Telephone lines to the outside world were almost unobtainable. The dinner menu shrank from *a la carte* to *table d'hôte*, with inadequate supplies of soup and dessert. On Thursday the Mexicans sneaked out on a Mexican government rescue plane.

"We have kept a stiff upper lip, British to the core," said Mr Hope. "It has been less Graham Greene than Noel Coward or Evelyn Waugh."

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush signed an executive order yesterday freezing all property, including bank assets, of the Haitian government in the United States. The order also forbids American citizens from making any payments to the regime now in power.

The White House announced the action after Mr Bush met the ousted Haitian president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Mr Bush tried to dispel comparisons with the coup and the invasion by Iraq of Kuwait that prompted an American-led use of force. "The situation is not parallel at all," his remarks came as a delegation of ministers from the Organisation of American States left to order the military junta to let Father Aristide return to office.

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Author of best-selling Cherokee saga 'was Ku Klux Klan man'

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

FEEDING on the success of the film *Dances With Wolves*, a lyrical autobiography of a half-Cherokee orphan who learnt the ways of nature from his American Indian grandparents, has made its way to the top of the bestseller lists in the United States.

The *Education of Little Tree*, written by the same man who wrote the Clint Eastwood film, *The Outlaw Josey Wales*, has sold more than half a million copies, won the American Bookellers' Association non-fiction award and had Hollywood studios bidding eagerly for film rights. But a history professor yesterday claimed that the book, written by Forrest Carter, was a successful literary hoax and that its author was really a Ku Klux Klan member and anti-Semite.

"The carefully constructed mask of Forrest Carter — Cherokee cowboy, self-taught writer and spokesman for Native Americans — was simply the last fantasy of a man who reinvented himself again and again in the 30 years that preceded his death in 1979," Dan Carter, professor of history at Emory University, wrote in *The New York Times*.

Professor Carter claims that, during research for a biography on the one-time presidential candidate George Wallace, he had found conclusive proof that Forrest Carter was in fact a white supremacist named Asa (Ace) Earl Carter. "Between 1946 and

1973, the Alabama native carved out a violent career in Southern politics as a Ku Klux Klan terrorist, right-wing radio announcer, home-grown American fascist and anti-Semite, rabble-rousing demagogue and secret author of the 1963 speech by Governor Wallace of Alabama: 'Segregation now... Segregation forever'."

Are you a ghost writer?



purports to be the autobiography of the half-Cherokee Little Tree who is orphaned at the age of ten and goes to live with his Native American grandparents in the hill country of Tennessee, where he learns traditional ways of living in harmony with the environment.

Forrest Carter said in interviews before his death that he had never spent more than six months in school and that as an adult he wandered between ranch jobs before finding success as a writer with his novel on the outlaw, Josey Wales. But Professor Carter says he has travelled throughout Tennessee in a vain search for people who knew Forrest Carter or the grandparents who raised him. Forrest Carter's family history disappears before 1976, he asserts.

Identifying the writer as the former executive secretary of the Northern Alabama White Citizens' Council, Professor Carter suggests that he took his new name from the slave trader and Civil War general who founded the original Tennessee Ku Klux Klan in 1866, Nathan Bedford Forrest.

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Mobutu meets key rival to choose new government

By SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Mobutu met Etienne Tshisekedi, his long-time rival and prime minister-designate, yesterday to try to agree an emergency government and to end the political violence in Zaire that has killed at least 117 people.

There was no immediate word on the outcome of the meeting, which was held at Marshal Mobutu's riverside palace at N'Sele, outside Kinshasa. Relations between the two men, who are locked in a power struggle for control of the country, have deteriorated sharply since Wednesday when Mr Tshisekedi dubbed Zaire's leader a "human monster".

Yesterday, people scurried in the dust of their looted cities looking for a living. In

Kinshasa, street hawkers began selling the spoils of looting which has destroyed the capital's industrial base and cars clogged the streets in queues to buy dwindling fuel supplies. But as Zaire continued to drift without a government yesterday, Western ambassadors feared a breakdown in law and order across the country led by the armed forces who, they said, no longer recognise any politician as their commander-in-chief.

France and Belgium, meanwhile, announced the withdrawal of 290 soldiers from Zaire, in spite of opposition calls for Western troops to stay until Marshal Mobutu relinquishes power. The decision to pull out 140 Belgian paratroopers and 150 French troops will leave nearly 1,100 Western soldiers in the country. Most are in Kinshasa. French and Belgian officials said the troops had fulfilled their mission of evacuating more than 9,000 foreigners.

Jordanian appeal on settlers

Amman — Jordan's new foreign minister, Kamel Abu Jaber, said yesterday that his first priority is to ask America, the European Community and Egypt to apply more pressure to stop Israel settling Jews in the occupied territories (Adam Kellier writes).

Mr Jaber said he was confident that American-arranged peace talks between Israel and Arab states, scheduled for later this month, would yield a comprehensive regional peace settlement. "It is probably the most important juncture in Middle East history since the creation of the state of Israel," said Mr Jaber.

Sinking solved

Cape Town — The Greek passenger ship, Oceanos, which sank off South Africa's coast in August, went down because "water" from a fractured cooling pipe flooded the generator room, according to the findings of David Fiddler, the principal officer of the transport ministry's shipping directorate here. (Reuters)

Cabinet adopted

Nairobi — A broad-based government for Somalia has been sworn in but opposition officials and diplomats fear this could spark fresh fighting. President Ali Mahdi Muhammad's chief of staff refused to recognise the cabinet. (Reuters)

Cavaco Silva makes plea for stability

From MARTHA DE LA CAL IN LISBON

ANIBAL Cavaco Silva, Portugal's prime minister, has called for a vote for continuity in tomorrow's general elections, saying that his government is responsible for the economic achievements of the past four years and that a defeat for his Social Democrat party could usher in a period of instability and dwindling investment.

Senhor Cavaco Silva has also stated that he will resign rather than be forced, through lack of an overall majority, to form a coalition government with either Socialist or Christian Democrat support. During his time in office, he has pushed through legislation to abolish the communist re-education camps and has guaranteed political stability to a host of foreign investors attracted by Portugal's cheap

labour and access to generous EC grants and subsidies. One of his biggest achievements was the \$4 billion (£2.3 billion) Ford-Volkswagen plant being built in Sombal, south of Lisbon, where bankrupt companies owed months of unpaid salaries and the government had to take emergency measures to stave off hunger.

Jorge Sampaio, the Socialist leader, has emerged in the election campaign as the uncontested leader of the opposition. The Communist party usually polls about 12 per cent of the vote, picked up mainly from the vast southern Alentejo region. Alvaro Cunhal, its ageing leader, has remained for many years a staunch defender of old-line communism, which has driven many party members to join the Socialists.

Heseltine signs deal to protect Antarctic

From HARRY DEBELIUS IN MADRID

BRITAIN was the first nation to sign an agreement here yesterday to leave the Antarctic unspoiled except for scientific research. The accord bans exploration for oil and other minerals for at least 50 years.

The commitment was contained in a protocol that amplifies the 30-year Antarctic Treaty, originally designed to co-ordinate international scientific research. The protocol protects Antarctica's flora and fauna and establishes a procedure to assess the environmental impact of all human activities on the continent. It also regulates marine pollution and waste disposal. About 3,000 people inhabit Antarctica in the summer.

Ecologists hailed the agreement, which is expected to take two years to ratify, as an important victory. Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, said: "This is the protection of the last great wilderness open space. I'm delighted to be here making history."



Dumping ground: a Greenpeace activist examining rubbish from McMurdo Sound, an American scientific base in Antarctica. The group is monitoring waste disposal.

RIO DE JANEIRO NOTEBOOK by Mac Margolis

Brazil city turns a shade of green

A passage through a Third World city can be a dark journey of smog, overfull buses, teeming downtowns, raggedy slums and open sewers. Brazil has its share of urban nightmares, but one metropolis is an exception. Curitiba, the capital of the Brazilian farm belt state of Paraná, is not only one of Brazil's most liveable cities. It is also a model of how simple methods can be applied to seemingly impossible problems.

The success of Curitiba (pop: 1.6 million) is due largely to three-time mayor Jaime Lerner. In the Seventies, when big was beautiful and Third World administrators borrowed abroad to build monuments to metropolitan vanity, Senhor Lerner took a modest approach. Instead of an exorbitant underground system, he dedicated lanes to express buses and built elegant transfer stations. He banned cars from much of the centre and planted 1.2 million trees, giving precious shade and a touch of green to the standard grey cityscape.

As ever more of the Amazon rain forest has

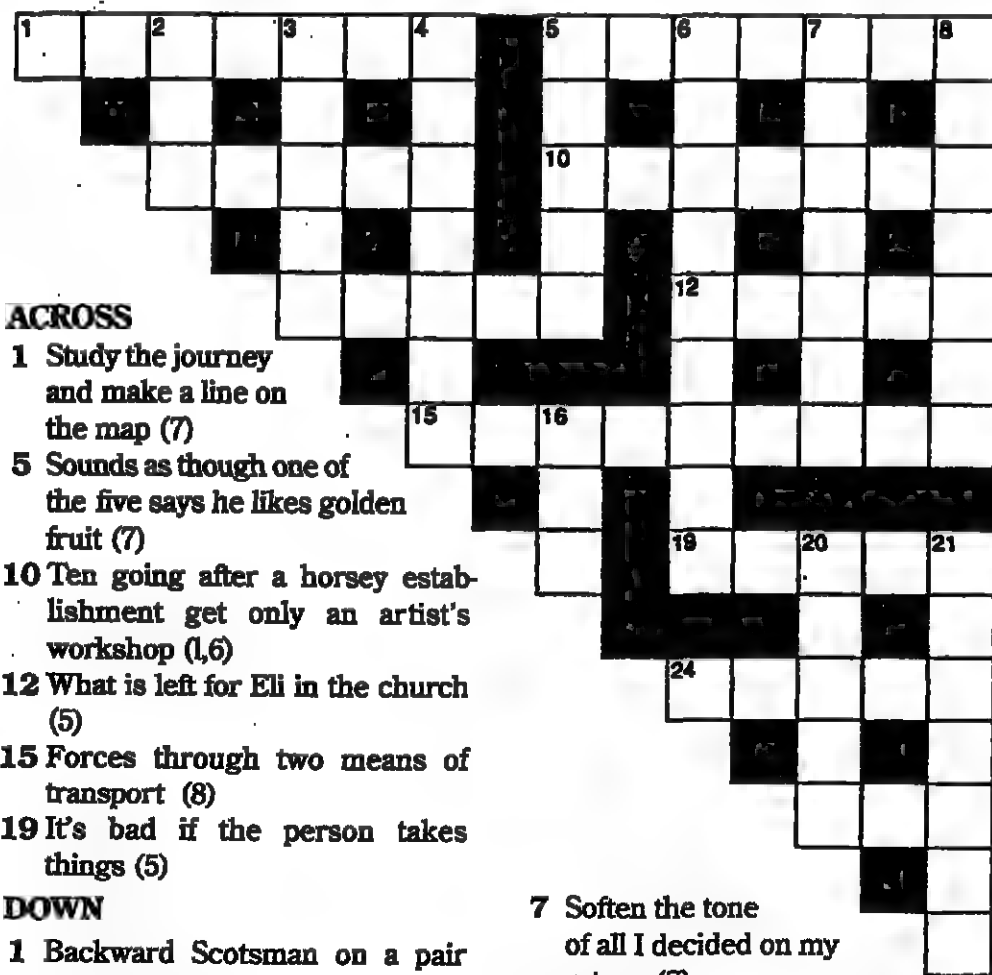
burnt, Brazil has been cast mostly as the villain of the ecological piece. But Senhor Lerner has launched an ambitious rubbish-collection and recycling programme, known as "Trash that isn't trash", which is unprecedented in Brazil. Seventy per cent of citizens take part regularly.

To encourage sanitation in the slums, Curitiba gives away passes or fruit and vegetables in return for rubbish. The system is known as the Green Exchange.

Senhor Lerner's work has won him kudos and consulting jobs within Brazil and without. He had a hand in plans to resuscitate Caracas and redesign the transit system in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He also helped persuade Fidel Castro not to sacrifice Havana's art deco architecture to a subway system. Curitiba has won a UN prize for its recycling schemes. Now he is tempted by another challenge. Brazilian mayoral elections are slated for November 1992, and he admits he would not mind moving to Rio de Janeiro.

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ACROSS

- 1 Study the journey and make a line on the map (7)
- 5 Sounds as though one of the five says he likes golden fruit (7)
- 10 Ten going after a horse establishment get only an artist's workshop (1,6)
- 12 What is left for Eli in the church (5)
- 15 Forces through two means of transport (8)
- 19 It's bad if the person takes things (5)

DOWN

- 1 Backward Scotsman on a pair mixed a drink (7)
- 2 Is Ann a goon? No, a many faceted thing! (7)
- 3 Part of a former sea shell (5)
- 4 Monarch and artist built an interesting architectural feature (5,4)
- 5 One hears piano notes in the harbour (5)
- 6 Enter, trip, fall over and make intelligible (9)

- 7 Soften the tone of all I decided on my return (7)
- 8 Candlesticks for the chimney seats (7)
- 16 It causes great pressure on the little pest over the lawsuit (9)
- 20 I'm with men of Kent to get something large (7)
- 21 Inordinate stress of pointless, large woods (7)
- 24 Trick father who left frantic (5)

This is the first half of the Telegraph Jigsaw Crossword. If you solve both halves, you could win £1,000. For the second part, and details of how to enter, buy The Sunday Telegraph this Sunday.

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Donizetti: L'Elisir d'Amore
Verdi: La Traviata
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 Wed 30th October 7.45

THE ENGLISH FESTIVAL OF OPERA AND BALLET

A GALA PERFORMANCE
Ballet: Stravinsky's Pulcinella
Opera: Excerpts from Rossini & Donizetti

WAYNE SLEEP and guest artists
OPERA: Excerpts from Rossini & Donizetti

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 Directed by STEPHEN MALLATRAY
 The Glory of the Garden
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THE WOMAN IN BLACK
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THEAT

Lynne Truss reviews the Torvill and Dean *Omnibus* and finds the secret of all relationships

Happiness is warmth on the ice

Oddly, the question "But is it art?" never once crossed one's mind during last night's *Omnibus* on the ice-skaters Torvill and Dean (BBC1). Glued to it all, holding one's breath at the skill, elegance and ingenuity of their astounding performances, one scarcely had sufficient left-over brain power to make the mental note: "Hey, my cat Buster is watching this too! I wonder if he'd like some skates!" In such circumstances, the question "Should I really be watching this?" understandably fails to raise its head.

Oh, the contradictions of the ice-dance! The warm, soft, colourful bodies amid the cold, hard, white ice; the smoothness of the action, the sharpness of the blades. Forgive the rhapsody, but watching last night's programme, it was difficult to swallow the fact that ice skating had ever been considered solely as a sport.

Suddenly this seemed terribly weird. You mean they got marks out of six for this? You mean that, at one time, there would have been a sportscaster commentary over their routines? Clearly, the fact that they are Olympic world champions gives them a certain edge (like dramatists winning the laurels in 5th-century Athens play competitions), but in the world of the contemporary arts the notion of point-scoring is surely metaphorical rather than literal. Imagine the famous "Three Tenors" concert as a sporting event, with ratings for volume, phrasing and interpretation, ending up with the three blokes ranked one, two and three... on a podium. (Actually, that's not such a bad idea. It might get a few things sorted out.)

Apart from a nice opening sequence showing the manufacture of skate-blades, Bob Portway's film was straightforward. Full-length Torvill and Dean routines were interspersed with interview, and we saw Christopher Dean at work — either choreographing other skating couples, or working with composer Andy Sheppard on the specially commissioned *Ice Works* (a dance for television which rounded off the show). Sometimes we saw him watching ballet-vids, or doing barre exercises with Jayne Torvill. The general impression was that we were being given privileged access to an untutored genius, which was all right by me. One's respect for this man's talent grew exponentially as the programme went on.

Even the sight of Torvill and Dean doing a knee-head was fascinating, because of course they



did it with a characteristically perfect one-behind-the-other unison, two bodies moved by a single thought, like weirdly intuitive twins. It is getting to be a habit, perhaps. We did not see them having a cup of tea or going for a walk, but you could imagine that Dean would always be half a yard behind, emulating every movement. Torvill must spend half her life experiencing the spooky sensation of someone breathing down her neck. As a child, she may have learned that Robert Louis Stevenson poem, "I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me".

But it was Dean's achievement as a choreographer that we were invited to assess, from *Mack and Mabel*, through *Bohemia*, *Missing*, and *Hot Trick* to the extraordinary *Revolution*. This is work that speaks for itself, of course, which is handy because Dean's explanations ("It's about Russia") were sometimes a trifle vague. It did

seem that the opportunity for broader cultural analysis had been missed. Why does this ice-dancing appeal so directly to one's emotions? Why is it so universally popular? Isn't there an important symbiosis with television? The work is overtly expressive, but what exactly does it express?

The great appeal of Torvill and Dean, perhaps, is the rather obvious one that their drama must always ultimately boil down to Relationships — in common with so much else on television. *Bohemia* is about love, bonding, shared tragedy, and matching, mannequin-fairytale costumes. Ice-skating, especially in pairs, is quite limited, really, two people who will fall over if they stop moving, travel along side by side, basically holding each other up.

Torvill and Dean make a virtue of the limitations, stressing the physical intimacy, the dependence, and the complete exclud-

ing-all-others mutual involvement. They pull apart, they are drawn together; they swap sides, swap hats, pull each other along by the leg, but they are made for one another, and they cannot let go.

Dean recently took the risk of choreographing this rather negative ob-no-not-you-again version of the ice-dancers' destiny. Unsurprisingly, the result was not entirely welcomed by misty-eyed lovers of *Bohemia*.

Revolution (danced to the old Beatles number of the same name) is tense and aggressive; they block each other's blows, grab each other's wrists, strut and struggle and narrow their eyes. They are terribly fed up. It might be entitled "Bohemia, Five Years Later" or "Where's the Fun, Now that We've Finished Grouching the Bathroom?" There seemed to be a great deal

of aggressive marital strife on television this week; the searing break-up of James and Charity in *The Men's Room* (BBC1); the bowling-contest in *Two Point Four Children* (BBC1), in which the unfortunately named Bill and Ben transformed a rare night into a foaming battle of the sea monsters; Rik Mayall and Adrian Edmondson in *Bottom* (BBC2) going mad with quest-martial claustrophobia ("What am I going to feed the children?"); and Sue Sullivan in *Brookside* (Channel 4) paying a rather heavy penalty for adultery — being tipped, baby and all, from a high roof.

Disenchantment was rife. But there was nothing so expressive, or scary, as Torvill and Dean pretending, with every fibre of their being, to loathe one another. Look, she's trying to hit him. It's enough to make you weep, I mean, for heavens' sake, they used to seem so happy.

Tale of Country folk

ROCK

Big Country Town & Country

HAVING reached a creative impasse and suffered grievous financial losses on their 1988 Moscow adventure to promote the *Peace in our Time* album, Big Country were ready to throw in the towel. In the event, only drummer Mark Brzezicki quit. Nevertheless, the group has turned a new page with their latest album, *No Place Like Home*, a radical and inspired departure from the galloping rhythms and skirling guitar sounds of old.

Even so, Big Country remain a band painfully out of joint with the times. Dominated by the thoughtful, honourable and down-to-earth personality of singer and guitarist Stuart Adamson, they have neither the "dangerous" attitude to compete with such young Turks as Guns N' Roses or the lofty pretensions of contemporaries like Simple Minds.

If anything, their relationship with their audience is akin to the easy and cosy rapport of a long-established folk act, and indeed halfway through this, the first of a five-night residency, Adamson strapped on an acoustic guitar and asked for requests. The result was an unaccompanied version of

"Broken Heart (Thirteen Valleys)" with the crowd enthusiastically adding their football-chant vocalese to the chorus.

However, there is no folk act that gets the kind of response which greeted the opening salvo of "We're Not in Kansas", "King of Emotion" and "Look Away". It looked as if the dance floor had been turned into a giant trampoline, such was the mass of bodies bouncing at the front.

The new material was greeted with more restraint, but the bluesy "Republican Party Reptile" and the country-tinged ballad "Ships" nevertheless dovetailed surprisingly smoothly into the structure of the set. The honky-tonk piano, mandolin and mellow sentiments of "Beautiful People" sat less comfortably in the mix, and an old song about the aftermath of a nuclear holocaust, "Winter Sky", seemed a perversely dated choice, both musically and topically. Better by far was the taut menace of "The Hostage Speaks", with its picaresque lyric and haunting waltz-like soloing from Adamson.

The old standbys, "Chance" and "In a Big Country" gave way to encores including an emotional reading of Neil Young's epic "Rocking in the Free World" and an ill-advised stab at Muddy Waters' cock-of-the-roost anthem "Mannish Boy".

DAVID SINCLAIR

CONCERT

Allegri Quartet Purcell Room

JAMES MacMillan's *Tuircadh*, given its London premiere by the Allegri Quartet and the clarinetist James Campbell, is that rare animal in contemporary music: a contemplative, sad, mostly slow piece which his intended emotional spot exactly. The premise for its inclusion in this concert, as in all of this short series, was the inspiration of Mozart, whose Clarinet Quintet the same players gave after the interval. Yet the world of MacMillan's work shares little with that of Mozart's beyond the instrumentation.

For one thing, not a note of *Tuircadh*, which was composed in memory of the victims of the Piper Alpha disaster, exists as decoration. Instead, MacMillan has written an essay whose eloquence derives from the instruments' unity and immediate reaction with each other, rather than from diversity within the texture or conflict. The means are lean and the scene is set with staggering simplicity: a single, sustained note on the clarinet starting from silence and expanding into a fortissimo of utter

anguish. Then the strings take their turn at another pitch, this time modulating it agonisingly through semitone steps, and thus creating constantly changing but narrow clusters of sound. They congregate again on a trombone.

MacMillan's use of such basic devices could have turned his piece into mere sound-effect. But one was able easily to imagine the sounds, and the flavour, of the mysterious, intuitive keening which, the composer's note told us, apparently arose spontaneously when a group of mourners visited the site of the tragedy. From this an eerie chorale emerges; then MacMillan, in a structure which progresses in natural-sounding breath spans, completes the confusing melange of bereavement's emotions with stuttering, angry passages. These are sometimes combined with high-pitched, clarinet arabesques.

Finally, the viola's plaintive sigh, a descending semitone, suggests the beginnings of a coming to terms with grief. Nevertheless that grief, deep and harrowing, still exists. If such description cannot possibly do this immensely moving work justice, this performance — several degrees more concentrated than that of Haydn's String Quartet, Op 76 No 5, which preceded it — most certainly did.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Bells that now and then ring

THEATRE

A Swell Party Vaudeville

THIS is the sort of show that was inevitable in the century year of Cole Porter's birth. Two actors, two actresses and two pianists assemble on a black stage from which spindly black stairs lead to a black platform. One of them describes the essentials of the composer's life, trying his best to ensure that the songs that interrupt him flow naturally from his narrative. Thus a few sentences about Porter's insomniac worries lead first to "Night and Day", then to "In the Still of the Night". Similarly, a first trip to France is followed by "I Love Paris" and "You Don't Know Paris", and a later, sadder one by "Who Said Gay Parade?". Everyone wears discreet evening dress and sips champagne, lots of it.

Most of the time, David Gilmore's production follows the genre's rules, some might say its clichés. Why not? Anne Wood substituted for the sick Maria Friedman last night, but she proved no less melodious than Angela Richards, David Kernan, Nicholas Grace and the singing pianist, Martin Smith.

There were times when I wondered if all of them, Smith honourably excepted, could use more beef, but then Porter was, so to speak, less rare steak than cold consommé with dry sherry added. Their casual good humour sorted well enough with a composer whose forte was the deft lyric, the wry melody, the debonair celebration of life's sophisticated pleasures.

Yet there are differences from the usual concert compendium, though whether they are bold or perverse depends on your taste. Most of the well-known songs are there, from "Anything Goes" to "Just One of Those Things"; but they sometimes get shorter shrift than ones that, at least, had never hummed. For example, much is made of "Love for Sale" ("who's prepared to pay the price for a trip to paradise?"), presumably because the show's creators, John Kane and David Kernan, think it reflects Porter's homosexuality and habits of slumming.

Justice is similarly done to a superb number about Manhattan from the show *Red, Hot and Blue* ("I'm deserted, I'm depressed, in my regal eagle's nest, in the depths of the nineteenth floor"). Yet extracts from *Kiss Me Kate* pass in a flash, and "You're the Top", "Well Did You Ever?", "Let's Fall in Love" and "It's



Still of the night: Nicholas Grace, as the debonair Porter

De-Lovely" are crammed into a curt encore.

Nicholas Grace takes the role of Porter, meaning he sings least and speaks most, which in each case is just as well. His baritone may be a mile house, but he can animate the sometimes plodding biographical tidbits. A portrait emerges of a flip hedonist deepened by the riding ac-

cident that left him in permanent pain, a fun man who learnt to wear his griefs bravely. But who cares? What matters is not his life, but his creative legacy. Whatever the caveats, most people will leave the Vaudeville knowing that they don't make composers like him any more.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THEATRE

Punishment without Revenge The Place

WHEN this Lope de Vega tragedy was staged at the Notting Hill Gate last year it received praise from all quarters. Not having seen that, I

cannot use it as a stick to beat Ceri Sherlock's production for Actors Touring Company, but clearly something has gone seriously awry. Gwynne Edwards is an old hand at translating from the Spanish, the ATC has breathed life at other times into a forgotten European classic, and of course the play does have a message for men thinking of leaving a young wife and an

illegitimate son together before setting off to lead a papal army across the plains of Lombardy.

The play also suggests what such a man could do upon returning to find the young couple coupling. The wife is to be gagged and wrapped in tariffs so that the son will not realise who he is stabbing when ordered to do so by his cross father. Then somebody else can be ordered to kill the son for killing his stepmother, and it's all right because this is a punishment for which nobody survives to demand revenge: hence the title. When honour sits in the lap of reason (if I caught the father's words correctly) execution is just.

The young man's servant steps forward at the end, to say that what we have witnessed is an example for us all. After puzzling a while over this, I decided that he and Lope and especially the ATC over-estimate the number of papal

generals likely to be in the audience. Illegitimate sons and young wives may be present, conceivably holding hands, but they need consider Lope's play contains any message for them.

Message, or no, the play might have shown us something about the 17th century, had Sherlock not dressed the cast in modern suits and trench coats. The double-decker grey panels at the rear of the open-cube set muffled the sound horribly so that only Robert David's Federico, the bastard son, and Neil Salvage as his servant are consistently audible. But it is the dull language that finally sinks the enterprise. "There's no thought that, seeing his desired end, cannot become reality." No matter how true, to the original, a two-hour meal of stodge is a fearful way to pass an evening.

JEREMY KINGSTON

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Personally, I like Coronation Street best when it is at its least urgent, when Mavis Riley is worrying about her budgie's health or when Bet Lynch is saying: "Ang on, ang on, I haven't smoked me breakfast yet."

Craig Brown, who begins his television review column in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

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BR'S BLIGHTED LINK

John Major's decision to postpone the election until next year is already devastating Whitehall with "decision blight". Nowhere is this more glaring than over the high-speed rail link from London to the Channel tunnel. Ministers who like to portray British government as a well-oiled machine compared with the inert regimes of Italy and Spain should hang their heads in shame.

Despite knowing from the start that the Channel tunnel project would be riddled with public-sector implications including overt or covert subsidies, ministers find themselves crippled with indecision whenever called upon to say yes or no, whether to a grant or a planning permission. Malcolm Rifkind at transport and Michael Heseltine at environment are patently praying for jobs rather than face the hostility of Kent, the railway, the tunnel interests and the Treasury. Never have so many been held to ransom by the fink of so few.

The first fault lies with Margaret Thatcher's notorious 1987 Channel Tunnel act and all those who willed it through cabinet. It contained clauses preventing public subsidy for capital and operating costs, for tunnel, rail link and terminals. The traveller who bought a ticket for Paris at King's Cross or Waterloo was to be conveyed to his destination without a penny of taxpayers' money to speed him on the way. No minister at the time believed any of this, as the French derisively pointed out. The chickens have now come home to roost.

There has always been a simple way out: to treat the high-speed link as a new bit of commuter railway to be leased to grateful tunnel users. Thus could the government make sure a route was declared, termini built and British industry and its railways covered in the same glory now beckoning the French. This idea has been round Whitehall for four years without anybody daring to bring it to fruition.

The latest sign of the fiasco is at Ashford. Prefab huts have had to be proposed because nobody can say from which pot should come

the money (extravagantly put at £188 million) that BR needs for a proper station. It is already too late to have a new station in time for the first trains in June 1993. The government, recognising that the dogma behind clause 42 of the 1987 act is now untenable, should step in with specific loans or grants to enable the station to be built as soon as possible.

The 1987 act did not preclude public expenditure of £68 million for extensions to the south Kent motorway network to improve roads to the tunnel terminals, which made nonsense of the no-subsidy rule. Why public policy should favour road rather than rail travel in this way was never explained. Such was the government's anti-rail prejudice that it would neither charge for use of the roads, thus equalising competition with rail, nor subsidise rail, equalising competition with the roads.

The same muddle applies to the tunnel's direct competitors, ferries and airports, who continue to enjoy millions of pounds in duty-free subsidies not permitted the railways. Nor did the 1987 act stop subsidy — officially public support for London commuter services — for the upgrading of the existing rail routes in Kent, costing £1.5 billion, in preparation for the tunnel's opening before the high-speed link is built.

British Rail has now submitted its "preferred route" for the new railway to the government to be considered by the cabinet in the next few weeks. Battle is already joined between Mr Rifkind and Mr Heseltine over these routes, between the King's Cross and Stratford East terminal respectively. The chief difference between them is that the BR-Rifkind-King's Cross route is the most central, the most sensible, the most easily cross-subsidised and the most likely to be built. The chief virtue of the Stratford route is that it is as yet unplanned and unsecured. It thus offers everybody a golden opportunity to hesitate and delay beyond an election. Such are among the real costs of Mr Major's election decision.

JAPAN'S POLITICAL MYSTERIES

If few Westerners understand Japan, fewer still will understand the unexpected resignation of its prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu. The country takes its place at the top table at all international organisations, as the wealthiest, second most powerful industrial democracy in the world. Increasingly, Japan is regarded as part of "the West". It is not. Its byzantine politics reflect a society still largely unchanged by Western ideas and values.

The resignation on Thursday of Ryutaro Hashimoto, the finance minister, revealed long-standing acceptance of intrigue and business practices incomprehensible elsewhere. The decision yesterday by the prime minister not to resist the intense pressure on him from party elders to step down next month underlines again the veiled nature of power in Japan's factional democracy.

Mr Kaifu has been forced out of office after only two years, despite domestic popularity and a good recovery of his Liberal Democratic Party from embarrassing scandals that toppled his two predecessors. He was chosen as a "Mr Clean" who was a compromise choice from the smallest of the five main factions. Using his popularity, he was emboldened to tackle the international issues that were isolating Japan among its friends.

Foreign policy for Mr Kaifu, as for most of his predecessors, was essentially a means to buff up his domestic image. This did not protect him from the failure of the package of domestic political reforms, forced on the reluctant party by the Recruit scandal. When it failed to win approval, the party heaved a sigh of relief and deserted him.

The machine, it seems, has won. His successor will probably come from a trio of powerful men behind the scenes: Kiichi Miyazawa and Michio Watanabe, former finance ministers, or Hiroshi Mitsuoka, a former trade minister. None is an outstanding politician. And none is likely to alter the central thrust of Japanese policy.

In the West a new leader emerges from the rough-and-tumble of confrontational politics, and seeks to establish his own profile and line. In Japan politics works by consensus. No single politician can give a response until all views have been solicited — as the West has found to its exasperation. More importantly, politicians in Japan do not make policy. This is drawn up by bureaucrats, senior civil servants who are usually well-educated, well-travelled, versed in Western ways and able to prepare briefing papers to which ministers stick rigidly. Apart from Yasuhiro Nakasone, the former prime minister, virtually no Japanese politician is able to think on his feet, articulate policy or negotiate in a one-to-one session.

All this is in keeping with a long tradition of courtesy, consensus, indirect negotiation and the subjection of individuality to society's common aspirations. Life in Japan is very different from the image given by consumer products that are perfectly tailored to a Western way of life. A more accurate portrayal is given by the current Japanese exhibition in Britain, itself planned and organised entirely by Japanese.

Yet pressure for change is growing. It comes mainly from a different and often disaffected younger generation in Japan, more influenced by Western ideas, more individualistic and outspoken than their elders. And with the end of the cold war, the American political and defence shield will be removed. Japan will have to start thinking more for itself on foreign relations, defence and international security. Its politicians must begin to show the initiative and energy demonstrated so far almost exclusively in the country's vibrant industry and trade.

Without much insight into the country, the West has made much of the Japanese economic challenge. Japan's ruling establishment is at last beginning to understand the political challenge of the West.

DISCRETION OF THE VALIANT

The Bomber Command Association should abandon its project to erect a statue to Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris outside St Clement Danes in the Strand. For the veterans of Bomber Command, whose British and Commonwealth aircrews lost 55,573 dead in the highest British casualty rate of the war, the absence of a public tribute to their leader may be bitter. But it is justified by more than the danger of reopening old wounds, evidenced by *The Times* story last week that German mayors, led by those of Dresden and Pforzheim, object strongly to the statue.

Correspondence on the story, as on this page today, indicates that partisan emotions are still aroused by Harris's war record. The public was deceived by the government about the indiscriminate nature of the night raids, and in the absence of any other way of hitting Germany itself, the strategic air offensive was a morale-booster at home. A *Times* leader voiced the country's mood after the first thousand-bomber raid: "These first blasts of the whirlwind that Hitler, who sowed the wind at Warsaw and Rotterdam, has now to reap have raised the spirits of the fighters for freedom everywhere."

Churchill used area bombing as a substitute for the second front in his diplomatic poker-game with Stalin. All along, Churchill willed the end: Harris merely gave him the means. The means was the "de-bussing" of as many Germans as possible; the end was to break their morale. The policy failed. Some 600,000 German civilians died, but the Nazi war machine did not break until the spring of 1945. Harris's superiors never persuaded

him to switch the huge bomber force he had built by 1944 to concentrate on precise targets such as oil refineries or transport. But neither was he dismissed.

The area bombing of cities continued unchecked by anything except resources. These were colossal: some historians put the figure as high as one third of the entire British war effort. Harris was supported by the public, military commanders and politicians alike until almost the end of the war and he used his reputation to ignore protests from Bishop Bell of Chichester and others, and override the scruples of deeply worried subordinates.

Only with the destruction of Dresden three months before the armistice did public opinion, and Churchill, turn against saturation bombing. Once Germany was occupied and the scale of the devastation became clear, Harris was made the scapegoat. He died seven years ago. But he never pretended he was only obeying orders. He was a fanatical believer in carpet bombing of civilians and once said that all the cities of Germany were not worth the bones of a British grenadier.

Harris was undoubtedly treated shabbily but the policy of which he was so outspoken an advocate was a severe blot on Britain's war record. What was reprehensible was that his treatment should have diminished the reputation of his brave men. They received no campaign medal. They at least deserve proper commemoration; their association should direct itself to that end.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

A 'grand debate' urged to resolve Britain's doubts on future role in Europe

From Lord Harris of High Cross and others

Sir, Whatever may be thought to be the "correct" balance between concessions and standing firm in the negotiations leading up to the Maastricht conference, the dominant pressures on the government will be to concede too much, in the hope of minimising friction with our European partners in the run-up to a general election in the new year.

The fiasco of the short-lived Dutch draft treaty (reported and leading article, October 1) illustrates how far the historic issue of Europe's future can become the playing-field of cynical compromises struck as by-products of short-term, domestic pressures, to the neglect of enduring constitutional, economic and political principles.

Although the prime minister did well to help see off the Dutch draft, a return to the Luxembourg version provides no comfort. The removal of the word "federal" would do nothing to expunge centralising ambitions from the minds of many participants whose domestic politics are governed by coalitions committed in varying degree to corporatism, co-determination and other collectivist fancies.

Would not the strengthening of the Commission and the European Parliament at the expense of the Council of Ministers, and the wholesale extension of qualified majority voting far beyond the single market, increasingly supplant Westminster and threaten to undo the British liberalisation of the 1980s, which

has had much more influence in the East than in Western Europe? If economic union led to a single European money would that not effectively mean a single European chancellor of the exchequer?

These and many other centralising tendencies are supported by some European partners, perhaps less from conviction than in contemplation of massive subsidies provided by the Community to accommodate their less-developed economies to the rigours of monetary union and the costs of uniform minimum wages, welfare, working conditions and so on. Would not all this in turn raise prohibitive barriers against new members from Eastern Europe?

In defence and foreign policy, majority voting would inevitably commit Britain to action — or inaction — at the behest of often petty European calculations that ignored Britain's wider interests. Must we not ensure that our North Atlantic and Commonwealth commitments remain of paramount concern?

Do the British people want all — or much — of this? Does support for Europe in opinion polls mean enthusiasm for any old — or new — Europe? How many fully understand what is at stake? Should not party leaders want to know what voters really think on these momentous issues? Do they not need to know, before they contemplate signing solemn treaties in the name of the British people?

There is no secret that both

Conservative and Labour parties are divided on this issue in Parliament, as no doubt are their supporters, present or potential, in the country. The Liberal Democrats alone are committed to some vision of European federalism, but might not even they have some reservations?

It may serve the immediate cause of party leaders to damp down discussion on the European issue for fear of exposing or exacerbating internal divisions. But what about the larger, permanent cause of democracy? If any government moves further or faster towards political and economic union than informed opinion would currently welcome, it can hardly rely on party loyalty to head off an embittered reckoning, should things turn out less happily than uncritical federalists now hope.

Before conceding or withholding approval of any binding commitment at Maastricht in eight weeks' time, HM government needs some assurance that its fateful decision will have the informed support of the British people. It simply will not do to negotiate in secret and then rely on the whips to force the resulting compromise through Parliament.

What is urgently required is a much more open, wide-ranging public debate. Some of us believe the best focus would be a campaign for a referendum on this issue, but that of course raises such difficulties as phrasing the question and timing a decision. The undersigned would therefore welcome a "grand debate"

on Britain's future in Europe and beyond, to be conducted without the inhibition so convenient to myopic party managers.

As a start we urge editors, radio and television producers to give more space and time to airing the issues and encouraging the full expression of rival opinions. A lesson we would commend to voters from the successful campaign against Sunday trading is that the most sensitive targets for registering public attitudes on specific issues. Let constituents make their views known to their members, who in turn should be asked to declare where they stand.

We believe there are few issues of more profound historic and everyday practical import than the good governance of Britain and its future relations with all nations of Europe — and far beyond.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH HARRIS, NORMAN BARRY, BAUER, JOHN BURTON, CHAPPEL OF HOXTON, TIM CONGDON, DEBENING, DEVONSHIRE, KEITH JOSEPH, BERNARD JURY, WILLIAM LEWIS, MARSH, PATRICK MINFORD, KENNETH SMITH, HAROLD ROSE, HARTLEY SHAWCROSS, STODDART, TONY PANDY, ALAN WALTERS, 4 Walmar Close, Hadley Wood, Barnet, Hertfordshire, October 4.

Should the DPP have resigned?

From Mr Keith Evans

Sir, I met Allan Green, whose resignation as Director of Public Prosecutions you report today, during my, and his, first week at Cambridge way back in 1955. I liked him the moment I met him and I have liked him ever since.

Allan is one of the kindest, nicest men in England. He was the straightest, fairest and most effective prosecutor I ever encountered — and I encountered most of them — and at a time when England's system of criminal justice had devolved into such a shameful mess. He was one of the brightest lights in the darkness, many would say the brightest light. He was the best director of public prosecutions within living memory.

What is so utterly appalling is that we all seem to be taking it for granted that he must now go. Are the British as hypocritical as that? Times have changed, actual mores have changed, attitudes have changed.

When I started at the bar nearly 30 years ago divorce was still regarded as shameful; homosexuality was in the cupboard and criminal into the bargain, adultery an actionable offence. Whether we like it or not, things are different now, and the idea of losing one of England's finest public servants for this kind of reason and without pausing to think it over for a moment is rank stupidity.

Which, after all, is more reprehensible — drink-driving or what Allan is supposed to have done? Drink-driving risks killing and paralysing innocent victims, yet at least two of England's most senior judges have been guilty of that offence. Did they resign? Of course not.

One of the facts of life is that even the most intelligent of men can be knocked off balance by sexual stupidities. It has happened all the way through history and always will. Surely the time has come for a bit of straight thinking. Allan Green is a top-class DPP. England needs him and his kindly wisdom in these difficult times. Let everyone who knows the quality of his work and the quality of his humanity rise up and demand that his resignation be withdrawn.

It would be a heartening commentary on the English people at the end of the 20th century if Allan Green were restored to his office by acclamation.

Yours etc,
KEITH EVANS, Gray, Cary, Ames & Frye (Attorneys at Law), 401 B Street, San Diego, California 92101, October 4.

From Mr David Holbrook
Sir, Nicholas Fairbairn declares, on the radio, over the resignation of the DPP, that people in high places should not be penalised for events that take place in their private lives. But a person who commits adultery must surely be liable to be duplicitous and to tell lies. In a word, he or she demonstrates unscrupulousness. Does Sir Nicholas mean that this does not matter nowadays?
Yours etc,
DAVID HOLBROOK, Deane Lodge, Brunswick Gardens, Cambridge, October 4.

Small change

From Mr Tom Bennister
Sir, My bank has received a cheque for refund of Danish tax deducted from a small dividend on shares. The refund is for 48 kroner; its value, at an exchange rate of 11.335, is £4.23. The bank requires £7 to negotiate the cheque.

I am returning it to the Danish tax authorities, requesting that it be donated to a children's charity.
Yours faithfully,
TOM BENNISTER, 309 Bloomfield Road, Bath, Avon.

Hindsight on the ethics of saturation bombing

From Sir Frederic Bennett

Sir, Mr William Hetherington (October 3) is quite right to point out that it is not only Germans who are disturbed by the proposals to erect a statue to "Bomber" Harris.

There were many serving in the forces during the last war, including humbly myself, who felt unhappy about saturation bombing of civilian populations, whichever contestants indulged in it.

Let us ask ourselves what would be the reaction today of the average Briton if he or she were to read that the Germans proposed to erect a new memorial, now, in Berlin, honouring the senior Luftwaffe officer responsible for ordering the bombing of Coventry.

Yours etc,
F. M. BENNETT, 2 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

From Mr Arthur Davis
Sir, Cities and citizens have been in the front line of total war at least since the aerial bombardments of China by Japan and of Guernica by the Germans in the thirties. I doubt if the citizens of Dresden would have preferred to change places with the inhabitants of Leningrad, the Warsaw ghetto, or Oradour-sur-Glane.

Whether great military or other exploits should be memorialised, whether they should be memorialised in public statuary, whether they should be memorialised in statues of actual people — these are the questions that should give the proponents of the "Bomber" Harris scheme pause, particularly in the light of the fate that has recently befallen a number of public personalised monuments in eastern Europe and other parts of the former Soviet "empire".
Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR DAVIS, 14 Queens Gate Gardens, SW7.

From Dr H. G. Muller
Sir, I read with disbelief and disgust that a monument is to be erected to "Bomber" Harris.

Certainly, a public remembrance to the very brave British airmen is long overdue, so long as the names of the instigators of the barbarity are not mentioned.

I survived the air raids on Cologne as a teenager.
Yours faithfully,
H. G. MULLER, 10 Tredgold Crescent, Bramhope, Leeds, West Yorkshire, October 3.

Unity through golf

From Sir Anthony Grant, MP for Cambridgeshire South West (Conservative)

Sir, While I agree with much of Mr Howard's letter (October 1), may I say that the one depressing feature of an otherwise magnificent Ryder Cup match was the crowd frenzy that took place in their private lives. But a person who commits adultery must surely be liable to be duplicitous and to tell lies. In a word, he or she demonstrates unscrupulousness. Does Sir Nicholas mean that this does not matter nowadays?
Yours etc,
DAVID HOLBROOK, Deane Lodge, Brunswick Gardens, Cambridge, October 4.

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Yours etc,
DAVID HOLBROOK, Deane Lodge, Brunswick Gardens, Cambridge, October 4.

Harvest boon

From the Reverend J. Bramley
Sir, Despite the present economic gloom and belt-tightening days, our local high school's harvest festival reflected a more optimistic climate. A tin of caviar was displayed amongst the harvest produce.

Is this a more reliable indication of the nation's economic recovery than the Chancellor's recent claims?
Yours faithfully,
JEFFREY BRAMLEY, 29 Dundalk Lane, Chesley Hay, Walsall, West Midlands.

From Mrs R. N. Harrison

Sir, The narrow arguments about a memorial to Sir Arthur Harris illustrate a national embarrassment about the need, in war, to attack as well as to defend. On those terms it is acceptable to have young men

exit in the sight of enemies going down in flames, but not to acknowledge the deaths of Bomber Command airmen doing what was their duty in wartime.

The lack of official recognition of the unequalled courage of the young men who, with the country's blessing, took the war back to the enemy cruelly diminishes the self-sacrifice of those who died. No medal, no annual service but periodic reassessments, with hindsight, of Bomber Command's wartime role — these demonstrate the nation's desire to appear always to defend, never to attack.

Yours faithfully,
NANCY HARRISON, The Long Acre, Silver Street, Minety, Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

From Professor Emeritus J. K. Russell

Sir, From January 1943 until the middle of 1944, I was a medical officer in RAF Bomber Command. Civilians often stopped me in the streets of London and thanked me for "what you are doing". (As I generally wore a raincoat or greatcoat they failed to appreciate that I was merely a medical officer.) None ever questioned or criticised the bombing campaign.

In the closing weeks of the war, when I was with the RAF formation that helped to liberate Copenhagen, I met a number of English-speaking Wehrmacht and Luftwaffe officers. Several made the point that the first serious doubts they had about the outcome of the war came when, on leave, they saw the devastation caused by RAF attacks on their homeland, until then regarded as inviolate.

There has, I believe, been a persistent failure to recognise the effect the RAF's bombing campaign had on the morale of the British and their enemies. The erection of a statue to Harris would be fitting recognition, albeit belated, to the thousands of airmen who lost their lives in bringing home to the enemy the full horror of the aerial warfare which they started.
Yours faithfully,
J. K. RUSSELL, Newlands, Tranwell Woods, Morpeth, Northumberland.

Darwin's children

From Professor William T. Stearn

Sir, Fiona McCarthy (Saturday Review, September 28) refers to Charles Darwin, having married his cousin, "fathering so many sickly, backward and neurotic children, who showed all the signs of being inbred".

Admittedly three died in infancy, as did many Victorian children. However, of the surviving "sickly, backward" ones, William, a successful banker, lived to 75; Henrietta, author, to 87; George, FRGS, professor of astronomy, Cambridge, to 67; Elizabeth to 79; Francis, FRGS, lecturer in botany, Cambridge, to 77; Leonard, major in the Royal Engineers, to 93; Horace, FRGS, founder of the Cambridge Instrument Company and mayor of Cambridge, to 79.

Election to the Royal Society, like the Royal Academy, may at times be erratic but "backwardness", except as manifested by three of Darwin's sons, has never been a qualification.

Outbreeding maintains variability and evolutionary potential but occasional inbreeding, as in the Darwin-Wedgwood family, may concentrate the good qualities of a good stock.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM T. STEARN, 17 High Park Road, Kew Gardens, Richmond, Surrey.

From Lord Deramore

Sir, The erection of a statue of Sir Arthur Harris is long overdue, as Mr Alan Bramson says (September 30). Sir Arthur was appointed Commander-in-Chief Bomber Command in February 1942, but had a long record of service to this country before that date, having been born in 1892 and fought in the first world war with the Royal Flying Corps.

In claiming that Bomber Command's Firebomb offensive was "militarily senseless" (report, September 28) the German council leaders ignore a published statement by Albert Speer [Hitler's architect]: "As far as I can judge from the accounts I have read no one has yet seen that this was the greatest battle lost on the German side. The losses from the retreat in Russia or from the surrender of Stalingrad were considerably less. Moreover, the nearly 20,000 aircraft guns stationed in the homeland could almost have doubled the anti-air defences on the eastern front."

Yours sincerely,
DERAMORE, Heslington House, Aislaby, Pickering, North Yorkshire.

From Mr John A. Atkinson

Sir, I have been in correspondence with the German President, Dr Richard von Weizsäcker, and am pleased to quote from his speech to the Bundestag on May 8, 1985, the fortieth anniversary of the cessation of hostilities, a copy of which he sent me. A relevant passage translates:

"When the statue of 'Bomber' Harris is unveiled next year I shall think of him and the 55,000 young men of Bomber Command who gave their lives in the cause of the liberation which President Weizsäcker so graciously acknowledged."
Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. ATKINSON, Colichemarde, 79 Hadlow Road, Tonbridge, Kent.

From Mr D. B. Sinclair

Sir, This country owes a debt to all who fought in the second world war, but why spend £100,000 on a memorial to one man? Surely a plaque costing up to, say, £5,000, with the balance being used to help either the young or ex-servicemen or their families would be more appropriate.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID SINCLAIR, Vine Farmhouse, Isington, Alton, Hampshire.

Spreading doubt

From Mr Roger J. Southam

Sir, I sympathise with Mr Rigby's difficulty (letters, September 30, October 2), in finding a suitable concise verb to describe buttering his bread. However, I have still to yet find a suitable comestible substitute.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER J. SOUTHAM, Chainbow Holdings PLC, Hope House, Great Peter Street, SW1.

From Dr J. Caisley

Sir, The French, of course, have already thought of it — to *tariner*.
Yours sincerely,
J. CAISLEY, 51 High Street, Hungerford, Berkshire.

From Mr David N. F. Logan-Brown

Sir, The word Mr Rigby is looking for is "ruin".
I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
DAVID N. F. LOGAN-BROWN, 4 Ashgrove Court, Wigtownshire.

Weekend Money letters, page 30

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).



Forthcoming marriages

Anniversaries

Service luncheon

OBITUARIES

SIR LESLIE MAVOR

LLOYD GARRISON

Memorial services

Weekend birthdays

Dinners

runo, will visit the East and Midlothian branch Country Market in the Corn Exchange, Haddington, at 10.30; the fund's shop in Haddington at 11.40; and, as Patron of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, will visit the bureau at Whitingehame Drive, at 12.05. Later, as Patron of the Scottish Rugby Union, she will attend

FRANCIS SANDBACH



ROY FULLER

Possibly Roy's championing of library staff causes warms just as telling, for he was a sympathetic listener to their suggestions made at staff meetings which he attended as a representative of the committee. The staff held him in high and affectionate esteem, and they join with all the committee in mourning the passing of a good friend.

Appointments

Ab Vice-Marshal Sir William Warrinton to be Director General, Saudi Arabia Forces Project, in capacity of air marshal, on February 1, in succession to Air Marshal Sir Ronald Stuart-Paul. Sir William will serve as deputy director general of the project during the handing over period, which began on September 30.

Mr Alan Broughton Taylor and Sir Simon Steuart Collett to be circuit judges, assigned to the Central and Southern Circuits and the South Eastern Circuit respectively.

Sir John Gray Steery to be a full-time Immigration Adjudicator, from October 1.

Director for Shell UK Oil, to be a part-time member of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Sir John Haddock, Lieutenant-General, to be Quartermaster and Sir Christopher Curwen to be members of the Security Commission.

Service luncheon

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Brigadier M.J. Doyle, President of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association, presided at an Officers' Club ladies' luncheon held yesterday at

Service In

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment
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 Regimental Association, pre-
 sided at an Officers' Club ladies'
 luncheon held yesterday at

Weekend birthdays

Dr Thor Heyerdahl, author and anthropologist, 77; Mr Tommy Lawton, footballer, 72; Mr David Maland, former high master, Manchester Grammar School, 62; Admiral Sir Derek Refell, 63; His Honour Sir William Stabb, QC, 78; Field Marshal Sir John Stanier, 66; Miss Jennifer Tanburn, research consultant, 62; Miss Helen Wille

Dinners

educational Corps, presided at the annual officers' dinner held last night at Eltham Palace. Major-General D.E. Ryan, Colonel Commandant, and Major-General C.A. Kinvig, Director of Army Education, were among those present.

Reception

**Sir Ian Stewart, MP,
and Lady Stewart**
A reception was held in the House of Commons yesterday following a ceremony in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster to mark the Silver Wedding of the Right Hon Sir Ian Stewart, MP and Lady Stewart. The Right Rev John Taylor, Bishop of St Albans, officiated.

Today's royal engagements

Prince Edward, as Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, will visit Uttoxeter Racecourse at 12.30 to watch the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Trophy race.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit the East and Midlands branch Country Market in the Corn Exchange, Haddington, at 1.30; the band will stop in Haddington at 1.40; and, as Patron of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, will visit the bureau at Whittingehame Drive, at 12.05. Later, as Patron of the Scottish Rugby Union, she will attend

8.00 TV-am
9.25 Motormouth. Young people's entertainment. Today's guests include the pop group Marillion and EastEnders actress Daniella Westbrook. Plus Gabry Roslin with a some baby gorillas and Steve Johnson trying "barfly jumping"
11.30 The Chart Show. The *Vintage Video* slot features Furniture with "Brilliant Mind" (4)
12.30 Saint & Gruesome. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves review the results in last week's European competition and look ahead to tonight's game at Old Trafford between Manchester United and Liverpool
1.00 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 1.05 LWT News and weather
1.10 Rugby World Cup. Live coverage of the pool two match at Murrayfield between Scotland and Japan, introduced by Frank Bough. When the teams last met, two years ago, Japan pulled off a shock by winning 28-24. Joining John Taylor in the commentary box is former Scottish international Gordon Brown. The match will be shown on the South West 5 and 5+1 LWT News and weather
5.00 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 5.05 LWT News and weather
5.10 10 Sharp! Pat Sharp entertains LaToya Jackson, sister of singer Michael, who talks about her new book (4)
5.20 Baywatch. Sun-kissed adventures of members of the Los Angeles lifeguards, in this bank on the trail of a suitcase containing \$1 million, lost by bank robbers when their getaway plane crashes (7). (Crackle)
6.15 Blind Date. Cilla Black plays cupid once again to young and old single people
7.15 Filz: Beverly Hills Cop 2 (1987) starring Eddie Murphy, Brigitte Nielsen and George Takei. A brass and inferior sequel to the hit comedy thriller with Murphy returning as the know-it-all Detroit policeman laying down the law to his Beverly Hills counterparts. Not even Murphy can save this overcooked and misconceived farago. Directed by Tony Scott. (Crackle)
8.25 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 8.30 LWT News and weather



Husorous Interplay: Danny Glover and Mel Gibson (5.35pm)

5.35 Film: Lethal Weapon (1987)

● CHOICE: Mel Gibson gave his futhering career a welcome lift with this fast and exciting thriller about a couple of Los Angeles cops on the trail of a vicious drugs ring. The "lethal weapon" of the title, Gibson, is a former Vietnam veteran who has been untroubled by the death of his wife. His partner (Danny Glover) is a decent family man who wants a quiet life and a pension at the end of it. The interplay between Gibson and Glover gives the film much of its bite and also injects a welcome leavening of humour. Gary Busay plays the main adversary, a psychopath far removed from Busay's screen portrayal of Buddy Holly. Richard Donner, of *The Omen* and *Superman*, directs. The film's enormous box-office success led inevitably to a sequel. The violence and bad language has been toned down for this television version. (Choice)

11.30 Rugby World Cup 91: Highlights from three of today's games — Fiji v Canada, Fiji v United States and Scotland v Japan

12.25am Tour of Duty: American drama series about a group of new recruits on active service in Vietnam

1.30 WCW Pro Wrestling from the United States

2.25 New Music, Celebrity Interviews and videos presented by Denise DiNoi and Jan Lynne White

3.30 Baseball 1991: Highlights from the United States

4.25 The Hits and the New Music, news and fashions presented by Michaelsa Strachan and Pats Waterman

5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman, Ends at 6.00

6.00 **Comic Book Cartoons** 7.00 **Once Upon a Time . . . Space.** Animated characters explore outer space 7.30 **High 5.** A look at unusual, exciting sports 8.00 **Trans World Sport.** International sporting news and features

9.00 **News summary followed by Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line**

9.30 **Class by Class.** The last in Ray Gostling's seven-part series on class barriers in Britain (7)

10.00 **Heath's Arc.** This edition of the Spanish wildlife series looks at the Holm oak forests of the Mediterranean coastline

10.30 **Wagon Train (b/w).** Vintage western series. The wagon train is stuck in snow and men begin to disappear in strange circumstances

1.30 **Australian Rules Football.** The featured game is the Hawthorn Hawks v the West Coast Eagles

2.30 **American Football — Red 42.** Mick Luckhurst and Gary Innes analyse highlights of the action from week five of the NFL

1.00 **Great Performances (1984) (b/w)** starring Barbara Stanwyck, Joel McCrea and Pat O'Brien. Fast-moving romantic melodrama about the card-dealing daughter of a professional gambler who meets and marries a millionaire, against his family's wishes, and then becomes involved in murder. Directed by Archie Mayo

2.15 **Channel 4 Racing from Newmarket and Longchamps.** Brough Scott and Brian Thompson introduce live coverage of nine races from 2.55, 3.00, 3.15, 3.30, 3.45, 4.00, 4.15, 4.30, 4.45, 5.00, 5.15, 5.30, 5.45, 6.00, 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 8.00, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 10.00, 10.15, 10.30, 10.45, 11.00, 11.15, 11.30, 11.45, 12.00, 12.15, 12.30, 12.45, 1.00, 1.15, 1.30, 1.45, 2.00, 2.15, 2.30, 2.45, 3.00, 3.15, 3.30, 3.45, 4.00 (William Hill Cambridgehire Handicap) and 4.50 from Newmarket

5.05 **Brookside.** Omnibus edition of the Merseyside soap (7). (Teletext) (8)

5.30 **News and weather followed by Night to Reply** introduced by Rory McGrath. Includes a discussion on Wednesday's *Dispatches* programme about a sinister organisation that plots the deaths of politicians. ERA supported by Northern Ireland

7.00 **South.** Magazine series comprising work by film-makers from the southern hemisphere. This edition includes a look at the role of the bicycle in China; a portrait of Ahmadabad in India; and a Tunisian's search for an Iraqi woman, missing since the Gulf war



21-11-1964

Gold rever: Stanley Holloway and Alec Guinness (8.00pm)

00 Film: *The Lavender Hill Mob* (1951, b/w). **★ CHOICE:** Hardened viewers may complain that they have seen *The Lavender Hill Mob* so often that they can recite it backwards but it is one of the handful of films that familiarity never stales. T.E.B. Clarke's screenplay, for which he won an Oscar, is based on a classic con job which inventively worked through. On top of that, the film has the great virtue of brevity. No other days would there be to end and a cinema feature after less than 80 minutes but *The Lavender Hill Mob* knows exactly when to stop. In one of his delightfully quippy Ealing roles, Alec Guinness plays a meek little bank clerk who gangs up with Stanley Holloway to rob his own bank. This apparently perfect crime leads to adventures in Paris and a climatic police chase through bomb-scarred London. The credits are a skillful bit of business, with director Charles Crichton, who made many years later a made a *Wish You Were Dead*.

01 Film: *The Open Window* (1957). The second in a season of short films made by promising new American directors, this week Rupert Whitwright. Barry Neikrug and Roscoe Lee Brown star in the story of a man who, on the night before an important meeting, is driven mad by a window banging in a nearby apartment.

02 Sumo. A documentary celebrating the first Sumo wrestling tournament to be held outside Japan, starting on Wednesday at the Royal Hall in London. In the main, it tells the story of the legendary Chiyonofuji, the Wolf, who announced his retirement this year after a decade's domination of the sport.

03 Status Quo. To celebrate the band's 25th anniversary they attempt to perform four live charity concerts in the space of 12 hours in four different British cities.

04 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Helped by Susan Woolf, author of *Fifty Ways to Find a Lover*, the audience of single people learn of various ways to find a partner.

05 American Football. — Reg 62 (1). Ends at 1.50

Days 4.30 Health/Circus 5.00 Live at Five
8.30 Newsline Weekend 7.30 Fashion TV
8.30 History: The Crusades 10.30 Newsline

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on. **Starring** Peter Sellers
 44 **Appointment with Danger** (1942: Alan
 Ladd and Phyllis Love) Ladd tries to solve a
 murder
 45 **15 Silent Movie** (1977): A boy posits for
 a murder commitment
 46 **The African Queen** (1951: Richard Widmark
 1954): A scientific expedition encounters a
 monstrous humanoid fish
 47 **13 Child's Play** (1989): A child's doll is
 possessed by the spirit of a murderer
 48 **10.66 South of Sea** (1969): New York cop Al
 Pacino investigates a murder suspect (Robert
 Elmer) in a murder investigation
 49 **12.00 The January Man** (1989): Kevin Kline
 is called in to solve a series of murders
 50 **11.11.11** (1999): A thriller (Jack Nicholson) conpires
 with a trusted housewife (Jessica Lange)
 51 **11.11.11** (1999)
 52 **1.40 A Case of Disappearance** (1989):
 Andrew Jaremy Jones joins an amateur
 detective society ends at 5.28

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SCOTTISH
As London expects: 5.05pm Scotland Today

ANGLIA
As London except: 5.05pm-6.30 Anglia News

BORDER
As London except: 5.05pm Border News
10.15-10.30am Carlton Time 12.35pm Film
The Hungers 1.50 Rick Rubin - in Profile 2.20
The Hit Man and her 4.00 Videostation 4.35
Pacific Sportsweek 5.05-5.30 William Tell

CENTRAL
As London except: 5.15-5.30 Central Gaze
Gaze 7.35pm Film: Bang the Drum Solo 7.50
Cinem'Ations 2.45 Top Gun 3.30 Alfred
Hitchcock 4.45 Wheeling 4.45-5.30 Jets

GRANADA
As London except: 5.15pm-5.30 Granada
Gaze Extra 12.30 Film: The Hungers (Tony
Lu, Elenco, Don Meredith) 1.50 Rick Rubin in
Profile 2.20 The Hit Man and her 4.00
Videostation 4.30 Pacific Sports Week
5.05-5.30 William Tell

HTV WEST
As London except: 5.05pm-5.30 HTV West
News and Sport

ITV
Cw the Music 2.30 CinemaTraxions 3.00
The Greatest 7.40 Cuz Vicious (Beverly
Untch) 4.00-5.30 Film: The Long Dark Hair

TSW
As London except: 11.00am Superman
12.00-12.30 The South West Week
12.35pm Film: The Hungers 1.50 Pop Profile
1.55 Rick Rubin 2.00 The Hit Man and her 4.00
Videostation 4.30 Pacific Sportsweek 5.05-
5.30 William Tell

TYNTE TEES
As London except: 5.05pm Northern Life
Sports Spectel 5.15-5.30 Carlton Time
12.35pm Film: The Hungers 1.50 Rick Rubin
- in Profile 2.20 The Hit Man and her 4.00
Videostation 4.30 Pacific Sportsweek 5.05-
5.30 William Tell

ULSTER
As London except: 10.50pm Film: The
Hungers 1.50 Rick Rubin - in Profile 2.20
The Hit Man and her 4.00 Videostation 4.35
Pacific Sportsweek 5.05-5.30 William Tell

YORKSHIRE

See London on page S.15
Open Calendar News
6.15-6.20 Cartoon Time 11.25 Your Match

RADIO 3	
15.55	News; News Headlines
17.00	Morning Concert: Rodrigo Trancoso Fomero (Sonata in Giraldia); Telemanni (Suite, Don Ulrichste)
17.30	News
17.35	Morning Concert (cont): Gershwin, arr. Rose (Overture, Funny Face); Joplin (The Swing Music); Stravinsky (Zempeurweisen); Garner/ Burke (Misty); Falla (Night in the Gardens of Spain)
18.30	News
19.00	Evening Concert: After all, four centuries of upheavals lie ahead
1.00	News
1.05	Lufthansa Festival of Baroque Music: Telemanni (Ino: St James's Baroque Players under Ivor Bolton, with Emma Kindry, soprano)
1.46	Salmson Quartet in C: Salmson Plays (Quartet in C): Vachon (Quartet in D, Op 6 No 6); Haydn (Quartet in E flat, Op 55 No 2, Jobe) (1)
2.40	Concerts for Orchestra: BBC

Philharmonie under Yan
Pascal Tortelier performs
Wagner: *Drustre*, *Eumenides*

Sibelius (The Bard):
Tchaikovsky (Voochoo
Voochoo)

1.35 Saturday Review, with Richard
Ossoline. Building a Library:
Smetana's String Quartet No. 1, Op. 48, No. 1: My Life, romantic
piano music; a Bartók resussee.
10.40 Record Review: Bartók
(Concerto in G); Beethoven
(McLaren; Cambridge Baroque
Camerata under Hyster-Jones;
and Liszt's Sonata in B minor: Krystian
Zimerman); Respighi (Poema
Sinfonico; Slovic; and Liszt's
Sonata in B minor: Krystian
Zimerman, with Victor Simsek,
violin); Bartók (Suite, Op. 14;
the composer, piano); Stephen
Sondheim (The Sound of Music)
industries of former
communist Europe: Leningrad
Symphony Orchestra
Conservatoire Chorus under
Alexander Titov performs
Russian Orthodox Choral
Music; Smetana (Fairy
Bohemian's Woods and Fields

orchestra); Bartók (Concerto
for orchestra)

4.40 Japan Season: Young
Japanese Artists, Maruse
Yoshihumi, Ito, Kifu
Yoshitaka, and Shinkai,
perform Tachibana Kenryo
(Mikoto); Makoto Moroi
(Goshiki); and Kikaku
Mishima (Maruse); Joji Yusa
(Cosmos Heptio No. 3, Kokuho)

5.00 Jazz Record requests, with
Chris Smith

5.45 Third Opinion, with
Christopher Scott

6.30 Record Review and Rave! Stephen
Coombes and Christopher
Scott, perform Rave!
Record Review and Rave!
Debusy (En blanc et noir;
Prélude à l'après-midi d'un
fauve); Ravel (Rapsodie
Espagnole)

7.30 Japan Season Saito Kiro
Orchestra under Saito Ozawa
performs Tchaikovsky (Requiem
for strings); Brahms
(Symphony No. 3), 8.15 Piers

Burton Page reads from
Shusaku Endo's *Foreign
Studies* at 20 Embassy

start, literally, for Radio 3's four-week Japanese season which kicks off with their first of nine "singletracks" or "one-takes" on Tuesday. The series will continue until November 1 with more than 100 broadcasts of Japanese drama, music, and features. Stylistically, there is a strong naming pedestrian about Alain Booth's account of the two-week walking holiday in Japan which he took with a friend from Liverpool and clearly determined to resist the attractions of the long walk. Psychologically, a more profound and more soundest way to launch a season that will extend another

9.10 Japan Season: Kazuki, A profile of this extravagant and colourful theatrical form

10.10 The Holm: Eric Sidenberg plays Paul Patterson (Lusavane Variations — first UK broadcast); Bertók (Sonata)

10.50 The Hampson, baritone. Geoffrey Parsons, piano, perform Schumann (Märzschwärmer; Mit dem Meer; Die Spinnerinnen, Op 40); Wolf (Friede unter Troh) and R. Phenomen; Garmaged; Spotttied aus Wilhelm Meisters; Die neue Aeneide; Aeneas; Ritter Kurts (Lieder); Mehlher (Rückart Lieder)

12.00 News 12.05pm Close

m 6.00 Once Upon A Time 6.30
eachtain 6.55 Night 7.00 The Trials of

[illegible]

Stores on FW
5:55 Shopping Forecast 6:00
News Briefing, incl 6:03
Weather 6:10 **Farming Week**
6:50 Prayer for the Day 6:55
Weather 7:00 **Talky**, incl 7:00,
 7:30, 8:00, 8:30 **News** 7:25,
 8:25 **Spot** 7:55 **Weather** 8:58
News
9:00 News 9:05 **Sport** on 4
30 Breakaway: Holiday magazine
 with Ken Burns, Mike Bullen
 poses on a train journey across
 India, from Delhi to Calcutta

the music serves other
 purposes too. It doesn't
 only the ticking of the clocks
 that surround him but also the
 chatter of some of his
 customers (1)

4:00 News: The Lintus Host:
 Michael Scott hosts the light-
 hearted scientific panel game
 (2)

4:30 Science Now: How
 bioelectronics is helping the
 development of computers
5:00 Movie: Wile E. Coyote

explores the world of mice
and men (r)

Peter Jenkins reports on this week's Labour party
 News: Stephen Lister
 From Our Own Correspondent
 Money Back: Heather Payson
 The News Quiz (a) 12.55
 Weather
 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Hanfield, Sussex, by Margaret Becker.
 How will the new chief select the Treasury, Sir John Harvey-Jones; Michael Heseltine, MP;
 Sir John Wilson (r) .55
 Shipping Forecasts
 News: Any Answers? 071-580
 40:45 Jonathan Dimbleby with your news on the issues raised in Any Questions?
 Saturday Playhouse: Arcady, A ghost story by Ian McEwan, Malcolm and Liz (Michael Kitchen, Harriet Walter) invest their money in a real estate house filled with a myriad of
 quizical loop at line 5.50
 Shipping 5.55 Weather
 6.00 News: Sport and Up-Down
 6.25 Week Ending (a) (r)
 6.50 Stop the Week (a)
 7.25 The Telescope: When Will Old Masters Become Old Masters? As Europe's first conference on women's art history meets in London, Louisa Bucke as whether the art establishment is still relevant against women painters (a)
 7.50 Classic Serial: The Personal History of David Copperfield, by Charles Dickens (a of 10) (c)
 8.50 Conversations with Historians: 19th Century Miller takes to Elizabeth Longford (r)
 9.20 Music in Mind (c)
 9.55 Ten to Ten 3.55 Weather
 10.10 A Proper Limitation: Georgina Boyer profiles Eliza Barba Gorge, who organised the First International Women's Day

Congress in London on
October 5, 1891 (s)

dropping a customer's
alabaster Tai Mahel clock that
smashed into 50 pieces, or
— hammering away at one of his
own appliances as part of his
frustration therapy (the two
actions are not connected),
and not being particularly
daring (see quotes from
Gilbert and Sullivan process
ids: "Who highest soar, fall
farthest"). While restoring old
English clocks, he listens to
Handel and Purcell, though

founded in the final year to
be known as the "father of
Guyver considers his future as
a commuting cricketer (S)

11.00 Richard Baker Compose
with Colin Metters and
Brian Wright, who has been
of conducting (C) (r)
11.30 The Log Book: Rod Kelly's
play about a Londoner's bid to
restore peace and tranquility in a
Welsh holiday resort (W)

12.00 News, and 12.28am Weather
12.33 Shipping Forecast
12.43 World Service (LW only)

EQUINOXES: Radio 1: 1059kH/265m; 1080kH/277m; FM-97.8-9.8A, Radio 2:
88-90.2, Radio 3: 1215kH/247m; FM-90.9-2, Radio 4: 156kdH/1515m; FM-
93.3-3, Radio 5: 659kH/333m; 809kH/333m. World Service: MW
344kH/433m; 659kH/333m; 809kH/333m. Capital: 98.4kH/433m;
FM-95.8, Ligh: 1458kH/247m; 809kH/333m; 809kH/333m.

TV VARIATIONS

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...and the ...

RADIO

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BB-6

8.00 **Trans World Sport.** Sporting news and features (r) 7.00
Emuella's Castle. Casting for the under fives 7.30 **Alfred**
J. Kowak. Adventures of a musical duck 8.00 **Stratton**
Adventures of characters based on the sign of the zodiac 8.30
Kelly. The exploits of a police dog 8.55 **New Kids on the**
Block . . . On Tour Animated adventures

9.25 **The Sword of Tipu Sultan.** Indian drama set in the state of Mysore
during the 18th Century. With English subtitles

0.00 **Dangerous Lives.** Golden Fleece. In this first of two programmes
examining safety at work miners discuss the dangers and hazards
involved in their jobs in the pits

0.45 **Deerini.** Animated series about a naughty boy and his friends
11.00 **Owl. Tv.** Wildlife series presented by Michaels Strachan.
Includes a visit to the Jersey Wildlife Trust to meet a baby
orangutan and the world's rarest tortoise (r). (Teletex)

1.30 **The Lone Ranger (b/w)** Vintage western starring John Hart as the
masked avenger. Today, he and his side-kick, Tonto are threatened
by a new, more powerful villain. The final episode of the series
1.50 **Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea.** Vintage underwater
adventures starring Richard Basehart

2.00 **Jezabel.** A *Survival* documentary about Terry Reilly of Swaziland
and his light to reintroduce the many wild animals that once lived
in his district

2.30 **Channel Four Racing International** from Longchamps, Paris.
The show introduces live coverage of the Ciga Prix du Grand-
Pond (2.35); the Prix Marcel Boussac (3.10); the Ciga Prix de
l'Abbaye de Longchamp (4.25); and the Ciga Prix de l'Arc de
Triomphe (4.25)

2.55 **News and weather**

5.00 **Family Price.** Drama series about three Asian families living in
Britain

5.30 **The Storyteller: Three Ravens.** John Hurt tells the story of an evil
witch who enchants a newly widowed king. Starring Miranda
Richardson and Jonathan Pryce

6.00 **Press Gang: Picking up the Pieces.** More drama at the *Junior*
Screen (Teletex) (r)

6.30 **The Cosby Show.** Award-winning American domestic comedy
series starring Bill Cosby

7.00 **Equinox: Superheroes?** A documentary examining the aims of
an international group of sceptics who aim to defend science
against what they see as the telepathy and UFOs. But are
they right to deny the place of magic in our lives? (Teletex) (r)

8.00 **Classic Cars: Shrink Wrapped Classic.** The final programme of
the series considers which of today's production line models will
be the classics of tomorrow. Experts and collectors give their
views

8.00 **Canadian Football** presented by Mick Luchinski. The main game
is the Denver Broncos at the Houston Oilers. Plus the Minnesota
Vikings at the Detroit Lions



0.90 Film on Four Joyriders (1988). Drama following the journey of a young mother (Patricia Kerrigan) who walks out on her brutal husband, leaves her children at a railway station and takes to the road with a small time car thief (Andrew Connolly). Billie Whitelaw plays a country girl who suffers their encounters on the way. A wry, witty and funny film which never quite takes off. Directed by Ailing Wain, her first feature film.

1.45 Vietnam Cinema: Little Girl from Hanoi (1973). Moving tribute to the people of Vietnam who died in President Nixon's Christmas B-52 bombing raids in 1972 and using actual scenes of the destruction. The film is a beautiful and moving search for her family in the aftermath of the carnage. Directed by Hai Ninh, now herself in the Vietnam film studio. Ends at 1.10pm.

LIFESTYLE

Via the Astra satellite, the Channel 4 cable 12.30pm The Smoothies hours: 1.00 White Shadow 1.56 Powerhouse
A.S. 2.50 Speed International Cinema 3.05
The Doctor 4.00 American Gameshow
8.00-9.15 Johnny Rapsheet Interview 6.00 The
Re-Vision Dispatch Programme 6.00 The
hours 10.00 Sesame Junction.


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Zagreb raids, page 7

Taylor-made: Liz Taylor's eighth wedding dress, according to *Women's Wear Daily* in which this sketch first appeared, is of yellow satin and embroidered lace

His views have been confirmed by reports in the Russian-language Hebrew press about recent fights among youths of Russian origin against Ethiopians and native Israelis. The newspapers have also been running advertisements from emigration agencies offering to help Soviet Jews find new homes in America, Canada, Western Europe and South Africa.

And I could see the underbelly: the poles and trailing cables; the canvas tacked on to plywood to form the apparent marble walls; the tangle of scaffolding propping the whole thing up from behind. I could see the autocue machines, too, scrolling silently forward as the Great Ones spoke. My colleague on *The Guardian* whispered: "Why do the TV cameras never show the back?"

"It seemed that some strange thing was happening. No question now what had happened to the faces of the pigs. The creatures outside looked from pig to man and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which."

Clearly, Labour is ready for government.

MATTHEW PARRIS

COMPLIMENTS OF HENRI WINTERMANS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 5, 1991

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-24, 31, 32
● WEEKEND MONEY 25-30
● SPORT 33-38

WEEKEND MONEY

Guinness trial

Guinness was the target of a campaign of sabotage during its battle to take over Distillers. Southwark Crown Court has been told. Oliver Roux, former finance director at Guinness, said the company got its supporters to buy shares to stabilise their market value after attempts by Argyll, a rival bidder, to undermine their price. He was speaking at the trial of Roger Seelig and Lord Spens, former merchant bankers, who are accused of taking part in an alleged share support operation. Page 23



Keith Vaz, the MP, has asked the government to help depositors of BCCI, the collapsed bank. After the failure of reconstruction talks, European banks are being offered BCCI's British branches and loan book. Page 23

Equal terms

For the first time in a government shares sale, private investors will be able to compete on equal terms with institutions in the BT sell-off. Page 25

Mortgage aid

Elderly people who were advised to mortgage their homes to invest in bonds and now face financial difficulties, are being offered help. Page 28

Bonuses cut

Actuaries from 20 life companies are considering cutting the bonuses on with-profit funds, despite fears over competitiveness. Page 27

Letters

Page 30



Liberty stake

Brian Myersop, the South African financier, has bought 14.6 per cent of the voting shares of Liberty & Co, which last month announced a fall in profits. Page 23

Racial attacks

Racial Electronics has attacked the accounting policies of Williams Holdings, which has made a £719 million hostile takeover bid for the firm. Pages 23, 24

Halstead up

James Halstead Group reports pre-tax profits of £7.65 million for the year to end-June, compared with £7.44 million. Page 24



Gerald Bradley and his wife, Pat, were the victims of a fraudster who copied the details of their credit card magnet strip from a carbon of a receipt. Customers are now being warned to ensure cards are destroyed. Page 27

Lautro enquiry

Lautro is investigating the way in which with-profits insurance bonds are being sold, after concern that some sales information may be misleading. Page 27

Photo cards

Customers' photographs are being printed on bank cards issued by The Royal Bank of Scotland as part of an experiment designed to combat fraud. Page 28

BES success

Business expansion schemes have attracted up to £55 million of investment in the six months since the start of this tax year. Page 30

Loans bar

Borrowers with a record of arrears or a county court judgment against them may not be able to take advantage of cheaper loans currently on offer. Riskier loans require extra capital. Page 29

WEEK ENDING
Matthew Bond

Arnie's phoney war

Senior executives at GEC are already arguing over what they should call the new Rover they hope to unveil at the 1993 Motor Show. Top of the shortlist, apparently, is the Melsun Cherry. GEC's marketing gurus believe it has a certain ring to it.

But then the main events (or perhaps non-events) of the week had a certain ring to them. It is, after all, less than two years since GEC spent £11 anxious days looking down the barrel of a Smith & Melsun brandished by Sir John Cuckney, then the outgoing chairman of Westland. The sigh of corporate relief that went up after Sir John was finally forced to admit that somewhere along the line he had mislaid his ammunition was big enough to be picked up by Marconi.

Despite living to fight another day, the experience clearly left its mark on Lord Weinstock, the man whose immovability as GEC's managing director is matched only by that of the GEC share price. Arnie withdrew to his cash-



mountain top retreat and mused on the lessons to be learned.

The period of contemplation was clearly a success, but the manner in which Sir John's strategy would appear to be being revisited by Lord Weinstock, however, has raised more than a few eyebrows. For just as John Wakeham decided that the news that there would be no November general election hardly merited a full press conference, so the £3 billion worth of predatory ambition that GEC apparently harbours towards British Aerospace was trickled, none too gently, into the market. But if there is one thing that the Stock Exchange does not like it is things that trickle into the market.

A request for clarification met with only partial success. Sir Graham Day at British Aerospace, perhaps mindful of the number of enemies that BAE's £432 million rights issue had already won the company, was eager to set the regulatory mind at rest. BAE was not talking to anyone, he said compliantly. Lord Weinstock, who does not have a rights issue requiring shareholder approval on Monday, said nothing. Blanks or bullets? Only time will tell.

Shareholders due to attend BAE's extraordinary meeting on Monday will doubtless be giving the rights issue document close scrutiny this weekend, particularly if they have the double misfortune of owning shares in Mountleigh, the accident prone property group. For at Mountleigh's annual meeting this week, a number of shareholders were seen searching their rights issue document in vain for the clause that said that less than six weeks after the £96 million rights issue had been completed it was the intention of the company's chairman, chief executive and managing directors to resign.

With Sir Roland Smith already gone, BAE's remaining executives must be hoping the growing resemblance between the two companies stops there. But some good will come out of the Mountleigh affair. With Nelson Peltz, Peter May and Marc Leland signalling their intention to remain on the board in a non-executive capacity, Mountleigh's board now boasts no less than eight non-executive directors out of a total of 13. Corporate governance is clearly alive and well. Isn't it good to know that there are so many people safeguarding shareholders' interests?

Sickly child to company doctor

Despite being 'just about' a millionaire, the saviour of several firms still feels insecure, Carol Leonard discovers

David James, the doyen of company doctors, the Red Adair of the corporate world, has no professional qualifications, charges £1,000 a day for his services and his 70 or so patients so far, have all survived.

Despite his extraordinary track record, the past six weeks have, he says, been the most emotionally trying of his career. In eight days, he has completed his refinancing plans for Davies & Newman, the Dan-Air airline group, with a £53 million convertible preference share placing, posted letters to Eagle Trust shareholders, explaining that a similar financial reconstruction has been agreed for them; and received confirmation that his nomination papers, as one of ten candidates for two vacant seats on the Lloyd's of London council, have been accepted.

As soon as one patient nears recovery (Dan-Air), Mr James likes to have another already under strict medical supervision (Eagle Trust) and to have his eyes on a third, still sickly corporate structure (Lloyd's).

Davies & Newman lost £38 million last year. Mr James became chairman and chief executive in November. The company is forecast to lose £35 million this year, after haemorrhaging almost £1 million a day during the Gulf war, but Mr James, aged 55, is now projecting a profit of £19 million by the end of 1992. He has also saved an estimated 8,500 jobs in the process.

Eagle Trust collapsed in 1989 with £74 million missing. One of its subsidiaries was then found to be involved in the Iraqi supergun affair. Mr James became chairman and chief executive in September that year. The company now has writs outstanding against Swiss Bank Corporation, owner of Savory Mills, Eagle's former stockbroker, for £13.5 million, and against Peat Marwick, the accountant, for about £50 million. Mr James says: "I will stay on with Davies & Newman at least until the AGM next year, in May or June."

Eagle Trust, where Lloyds Bank, Standard Chartered and National Westminster have just agreed to a debt-for-equity refinancing package of up to £20 million, will take a little longer. "I will remain involved with Eagle Trust for a number of years, because of the very long legal programme, but my workload and fee income have already been substantially reduced and will continue to reduce."

As for Lloyd's, Mr James has been a name for eight years, is currently writing up to £850,000 of business a year and wants a seat on the council "because I am

dissatisfied with much about Lloyd's but I don't like quitting". He expresses concern about the continued existence of loopholes that might still permit criminal activity, and the "dreadful PR", which has, he says, "made Lloyd's names look ridiculous in the eyes of the public - you would think we were all now living in cardboard boxes in the Strand".

Far from living in a cardboard box, Mr James spends at least one night a week with his mother, Aislin, aged 79, at her home in Lea, south London, and the rest of the time commutes from his penthouse flat in Hove, East Sussex. He has never married although he was once engaged and has "come close" on two other occasions. He says: "I have a long-standing lady friend, but I don't think either she or I would regard each other as exclusive. The old problems of my life still make an enduring relationship almost impossible - from time to

'He can be very single minded, to the exclusion of everything else, and I think that is perhaps why he is still a bachelor'

time I will go off the air for four or six weeks while I get totally committed to a job."

Mr James insists he is not lonely, that he has other interests, such as opera twice a week - he is a Wagner fan; cricket - "when I retire I would love to spend the winters following the England team"; and racing - "I have my diary booked out for Ascot and Goodwood. I love the horses and the science of the form book." Even they are dropped, however, if his work demands.

Tony Garrett, a chartered secretary, who has worked with Mr James on several projects and is cited by Mr James as his best friend, much to Mr Garrett's surprise, admits that he finds this single-minded commitment to work difficult to cope with.

Mr Garrett says: "He can be very single minded, to the exclusion of everything else, and I think that is perhaps why he is still a bachelor. I have a great deal of admiration for David but it is mixed with sympathy because although he has been so successful in one area of his life, he has

missed so much. He has no domesticity."

Although Mr James averts his eyes when he recalls his broken engagement - "Of course I cared, I cared a hell of a lot" - and admits that if he had his time over again, there are some things he would do differently, he does not seek sympathy. He is happy with his lot. As an only child, he has, after all, never known anything else. He enjoys socialising, relishes public speaking, is warm, kind and good humoured, but he is, at heart, a loner.

Even at school in Blackheath, southeast London, the only sports he won medals in were long jump and high jump. "Things I did on my own, that were not done with others, I could regularly win." He has never been a team player. He cannot even recall having any childhood friends. Afflicted by chronic asthma in his early years, later diagnosed as an allergy to cat fur, Mr James only learned to read when he was ten and was, by then, already labelled the school-room idiot and mercilessly teased. "I was a puny little thing, stuck in the back row, with my eyes streaming, and I hated it."

He sought refuge in religion, set his heart on a career in the church, and gained a Church of England place at Oxford. At 18, a crisis of conscience forced him to admit that he was no longer a believer. He says: "I'm now an anti-clerical, anti institutionalised religion because I believe it represents a limitation of the human spirit." He was morally obliged to decide, the Oxford course. One of his biggest regrets is that he did not go to university. He says it has left him with a feeling of inferiority, of "always coming from behind". Each time he completes the rescue of a company, and despite a steady stream of offers, he feels as if he will never be offered anything else. His deep-seated financial insecurity bubbles to the surface.

That insecurity stems from his childhood, from war-time memories of evacuation, of returning to Blackheath with no furniture because the depository had been burned - "We slept on camp beds under newspapers" - and of his mother having less than a pound in her pocket to last until pay day. His father, an awesome figure who had begun life as a kitchen boy at a night club and became catering director of Watney, was unemployed for six months after the war.

Even though he admits to being "just about" a millionaire, Mr James claims he is "not yet rich", and is painfully careful with his money. "I computerise my own personal budget, as detailed as for any of my companies. I don't regard myself as secure. I obses-



Musically minded: David James with a bust of Sir Thomas Beecham at the Royal Opera House

sively put money into my pension scheme so that I have some insurance for the future." He even says that one of the reasons he never married was because he never felt he had sufficient money to take care of a mortgage and school fees. When he could afford it - by his mid-forties - he was, he says, too old.

Surprisingly, however, Mr James is not motivated by money alone. He has missed out on a fortune by refusing, on a point of principle, to take equity stakes in the companies he salvages.

So what is it that still drives him? "I have an eternal need to test myself. It is part of my attempt to get out of that back row of the classroom." He now wants to tackle something of national consequence, and suggests either The Royal Opera or the racing industry. He admits that his ambitions, hand in hand with his fragile confidence, have grown over the years and that he now wants to leave his mark. Mr James realises, however, that in so doing, his unbeaten track record is exposed. "Yes, there is a degree of Russian roulette," he says. "You can draw an analogy with the high jump I used to do at school - ultimately the winner will fail. You always hit the bar in the end."

Giving credit for a good education

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

WHAT is the difference between a student with an overdraft and a graduate with an overdraft? The answer is creditworthiness. Thousands of graduates are being wooed by the Bank of Scotland and offered college or university credit cards to help fund activities at their Alma Mater. Students are excluded from the scheme. "Alumni" cards were launched by the Bank of Scotland a year ago, and are now gaining in popularity, with 36 educational institutions having signed up. They range from Bolton Institute of Higher Education to Strathclyde University. Aberdeen Uni-

versity cards were the first to be issued and this week Edinburgh University graduates were invited to apply.

In coming months, graduates of the London School of Economics, Brunel University and former pupils of King's School, Canterbury, will be among those mailed.

The affinity cards work like all others in that the organisation benefiting signs up with a bank and supplies it with a list of members - in this case, former students.

When applications are accepted, the bank pays the college an agreed sum, and each time the cardholder uses the card a small amount is paid to the college. Typically, affinity cards pay £5



for each new customer and 25p per £100 spent. With the alumni cards, different rates have been negotiated. Unlike the bank's Classic Visa card, there is no annual fee. The interest rate is

slightly higher, though, at 28.6 per cent APR compared with 28.4 per cent for the Classic Visa card.

The bank said alumni applicants were assessed under the normal credit-scoring procedure, although some factors were regarded as positive that might not be for a standard card. The bank expected new graduates to have moved recently and not to have much service with their employers. Usually, card applicants would score less favourably if they seemed transitory.

This would explain how one graduate turned down by a larger bank for a standard credit card was readily accepted as a customer by Bank of Scotland for a university credit card.

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Williams accounts attacked by Racal

RACAL Electronics has attacked the accounting policies of Williams Holdings in its first defence document against the £719 million hostile takeover offer from Nigel Rudd's and Brian McGowan's industrial conglomerate.

The document argues that Williams' all-paper offer is "of uncertain value" because of the company's accounting treatment. Three aspects of Williams' accounts come under attack: the level of disclosure on acquisition accounting, the "unusual" inclusion of the pension fund surplus as an asset on the balance sheet, and the "non-standard" treatment of exceptional items.

Racal shareholders are urged to reject the "inequitable, uncertain, opportunistic and inadequate" offer. The defence document, which does not include a profit forecast, concentrates on Racal's track record since 1966 when Sir Ernest Harrison became chairman and chief executive. Since then, according to Racal, the company "has shown the highest capital growth of any UK electronics sector stock which investors could have held throughout the last 25 years".

It also points to the development of Racal Vodafone, fully demerged from its former parent in September and now valued at £3.8 billion. Since April 27, 1988, the day before the announcement of the initial partial demerger of Racal Vodafone, Racal shareholders have seen the value of their holdings increase by 103 per cent, compared with a 44 per cent increase in the FT-SE 100 index and a 23 per cent advance in Williams' share price.

The document also said that the terms offered by Williams to Yale and Valor shareholders earlier this year proved that the offer undervalued Racal. The £417 million paid for Yale and Valor represented 107 per cent of that company's turnover and a 202 per cent premium to net assets. By contrast, the defence document says, the offer for Racal represents only 46 per cent of its turnover and a 12 per cent premium to net assets.

Racal shares rose 1 1/2p to 59 1/2p, while Williams Holdings fell 2p to 340p.

Times, page 24

The second Guinness trial

Argyll 'campaign of sabotage' alleged by Roux

By OUR CITY STAFF



Oliver Roux: 'corrective'

GUINNESS was the victim of an "amazing campaign" of sabotage during its takeover battle for Distillers, a court was told yesterday.

Argyll, the Scottish supermarket group and Guinness's rival in the takeover battle, tried to distort the Guinness share price by attacks in the market, in the courts, on the political front and in the press, Oliver Roux, the former Guinness finance director, told Southwark Crown Court.

He was speaking in response to a request from Roger Seelig, a former merchant banker, who denies fraud and false accounting charges and is defending himself, to paint an accurate picture of Argyll's anti-Guinness tactics.

Mr Roux agreed when he suggested there was no investigation of Argyll as there was into Guinness. Mr Seelig said that, as a result of Argyll's tactics, Guinness persuaded its supporters to buy its shares as a "corrective" to stabilise their market value—a move he regarded as "completely honest".

Mr Seelig and Lord Spens, a former merchant banker, are accused of taking part in an alleged multimillion pound share-support operation involving undisclosed indemnity payments to help Guinness win its £2.7 billion bid for Distillers in the spring of 1986.

Mr Seelig, a former corporate finance director at Morgan Grenfell, denies two charges of false accounting under the 1968 Theft Act and one under

the 1958 Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act, alleging that he fraudulently attempted to induce the disposal and acquisition of securities.

Lord Spens, the former managing director of Henry Ansbacher and Company, also denies a charge of false accounting. Both deny a joint charge alleging conspiracy to contravene the provisions of the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act.

Mr Roux, a prosecution witness, agreed with Mr Seelig that, from the beginning of the bid, Guinness's advisers gave a warning that Argyll and its followers might make counter-attacks and try to "sabotage" Guinness's share price.

Aggressive attacks soon materialised in an "amazing campaign" in every possible direction, he said. They involved Guinness shareholders friendly to Argyll selling enormous holdings through different stockbrokers

to cause the brewer's share price the maximum amount of damage. Another tactic was offering shares for sale after the market closed.

Argyll supporters also sold Guinness shares "short"—selling stock they did not have at the time.

Mr Roux said Argyll attacked Guinness in the press, trying to give the impression that the takeover would harm the company's profits and that it only launched a counterbid to protect its position in Bell's, an earlier acquisition.

There was also a political campaign that involved making approaches to all those who would be consulted by the Office of Fair Trading in determining whether to refer Guinness's bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. These included the Scottish Office, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and other government departments.

On the legal front, Argyll issued a writ against the Distillers and Guinness manager agreement and sought a judicial review on how Guinness's first offer for the company could lapse so a second one could be made.

Mr Roux said Argyll also attacked Guinness in its bid presentations to institutions. But Guinness's presentations never mentioned Argyll, concentrating instead on the benefits a merger would bring to the shareholders and the country. The trial was adjourned until Monday.



Flagship store: shoppers queue at Liberty's main branch in Regent Street, London

South African buys 14.6% in Liberty

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BRIAN Myerson, the South African financier, has bought 14.6 per cent of the voting shares of Liberty & Co, the retailer whose principal store is in Regent Street, London.

Mr Myerson bought the shares for 650p each from the Merchant Navy Officers Pension Fund, via his company Concerto Capital Corporation. James Capel carried out the transaction. The purchase takes Mr Myerson's holding in the ordinary shares of Liberty to 15.08 per cent. He also holds an undisclosed number of the non-voting shares.

Mr Myerson said it would be premature to say what his intentions were towards Liberty, which he considers to be one of the last strong independent retail brand names. He said he would not be buying any more Liberty shares in the immediate future. Last year, he attempted to enfranchise the non-voting shares of Aquascutum, which led to the sale of the business to Re-

nowned, of Japan. While Mr Myerson has not yet spoken to the management of Liberty, he is likely to seek a meeting soon. "I am now the second largest shareholder after the family," he said, adding that it was too early to say whether or not he would seek board representation.

Harry Weblin, the chairman of Liberty, expressed disappointment that Merchant Navy had sold the shares to Mr Myerson, but said he could understand it.

More than half the voting shares, which make up 77 per cent of the share capital of the group, are in the hands of relatives of the founding family. Mr Weblin said he was confident that these shares would stay within the family.

Liberty last month announced pre-tax profits of £1.7 million for the six months to August 3, a 36.3 per cent fall. Mr Weblin said trading conditions had been the worst for a decade.

Coutts to cut 170 more jobs

COUTTS, the Queen's bank, has told its staff of 2,100 that 170 of them will be made redundant by Christmas. The message comes after the failure of a voluntary redundancy programme. This attracted only 65 applicants, well short of the 250 job cuts that the bank hopes to make as part of a £12 million cost-cutting programme.

The bank, a subsidiary of National Westminster, said that it still hoped to redeploy as many staff as possible and denied reports that it was planning to close its Campbell's Office in the Strand.

The job cuts are part of a wider reorganisation at Coutts, which has taken over NatWest's private banking businesses worldwide.

Other banks have been forced to introduce or expand compulsory redundancies in the past year as the recession has reduced the numbers leaving due to natural wastage.

Lamont hails year in ERM a success

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

AMID speculation about an imminent move by Britain to the narrow bands of the European exchange-rate mechanism, Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, has hailed the first year of ERM membership as a success.

But his anniversary statement gave no guidance as to when the government might move the pound from the wide 6 per cent bands to the 2.25 per cent bands. Predictions that Mr Lamont was ready to tighten the bands immediately, even yesterday, had circulated the market from Thursday afternoon.

The Conservative party conference at Blackpool next week has been tipped by foreign exchange dealers as a platform from which a move to the narrow bands could be announced, possibly to coincide with another half-point cut in interest rates when the inflation figures are published on Friday. But the pound has been relatively weak, suggesting Mr Lamont has little scope for an early ERM change. At the Bank of England close yesterday, sterling stood at DM2.9162, well below its central rate of DM2.95.

Julian Calow, economist at Chase Investment Bank, considered sterling weakness a restraint, but said no Treasury minister had publicly made a commitment to press sterling's central rate. This suggested a strong likelihood of a devaluation from DM2.95 to between DM2.85 and DM2.90 when the bands are narrowed. Mr Lamont said the ERM had provided an "invaluable framework" in the fight against inflation. But he sought to dampen hopes of further interest rate cuts, saying that the government's commitment to maintain sterling's ERM parity meant that British interest rates were heavily influenced by those of our European partners.

He said the competitiveness of British exporters, contrary to City expectations, had been unimpaired by ERM membership: exports to the Community were up 12 per cent in the three months to August compared with last year.

The government's latest cyclical indicators, which seek to identify turning points in economic activity, continue to show an economy on the road to recovery, but at a very modest pace, he said. City analysts, however, believe the figures reflect the end of a brief upturn in confidence earlier this year, not a sustained recovery.

STV shares up as profits dive

SCOTTISH Television, whose shares have more than doubled in the past 12 months, announced pre-tax profits for the six months to end-June of £1.15 million, a fall of 67 per cent on last time.

But the drop in earnings failed to dent the share price, which rose 2p to 572p. STV is widely believed to have bid under £1 million, one of the

lowest bids, to retain its television franchise, and its bid is unopposed. The group said the estimated costs of its application were £4 million, which will be taken as an extraordinary item in the second half.

Pre-tax profits in the first half fell on the back of a drop in revenue and an increase in exceptional costs. Sales of

advertising fell from £43.7 million to £40 million and programme sales fell from £8.3 million to £7.73 million. Total turnover fell from £52.3 million to £48 million.

The exceptional costs, for severance pay, rose from £590,000 to £2.08 million. Earnings per share fell from 9.73p to 3.27p and the interim dividend is 2.875p (5.75p).

Buyers sought for BCCI operations

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CONTINENTAL banks are being offered the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International's British branches and loan book after reconstruction talks failed this week. Advisers to the Abu Dhabi government, BCCI's main shareholder, and Touche Ross, the provisional liquidator, are contacting leading continental banks about buying BCCI's operations.

They are hoping to sell a package of up to six branches and a £300 million loan book. The money raised would help to compensate the bank's depositors. The advisers hope a foreign bank will buy the operations to establish or expand a branch network in Britain.

If the attempt fails, Touche Ross will be forced to sell the pieces at heavily reduced prices. The proposed sale is part of the new policy of the Abu Dhabi government to realise BCCI's assets after its decision to make all but 185 of the bank's British staff redundant last week.

Keith Vaz, the Labour MP for Leicester East, met Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, and John Maples, the economic secretary to the Treasury, yesterday to request government help for BCCI depositors. Mr Vaz said he was disappointed by the meeting, even though Mr Maples did



'Tea and sympathy but not much else': Keith Vaz, Labour MP for Leicester East

not rule out government compensation if the official enquiry into the BCCI closure revealed that the Bank of England was negligent in its handling of the case.

"Mr Maples gave us tea and sympathy but not much else. He expressed his disappointment that the restructuring process had not succeeded."

The Abu Dhabi government

decided to abandon attempts to rebuild BCCI after a meeting last weekend in the Gulf.

The Abu Dhabi authorities are also said to have been angered by the performance of Touche Ross. Sources close to BCCI said many of its loans did not appear to have been serviced since the bank was closed by international regulators on July 5. They believed

this was further depleting the bank's remaining assets. Touche Ross said it could not comment on the reports.

Since BCCI's closure, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan has been paying BCCI's British staff £600,000 a week. He will pay another £3 million in redundancy and has appointed an outplacement agency to help the staff find new jobs.

Caledonian clan gathers to fight Price war

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE chief of the clan Forsyth in Scotland has launched a £6 million legal suit against Price Waterhouse, the accountant, for alleged breach of contract and negligence after the collapse of his company, Caledonian Produce.

Alistair Forsyth of that ilk, Caledonian's chairman, and three of his fellow shareholders have served a writ on the firm, which first advised the company on a reconstruction and was then appointed as its joint receiver. Mr Forsyth, who lives in Ethic Castle near Arbroath, suffered heavy losses in the collapse of Caledonian, in which he owned a 10 per cent stake.

The writ alleges that Price

Waterhouse undervalued Caledonian's assets by £3 million, and that the firm told the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, Caledonian's banker, that its loans were not supported by group assets. The dispute stems from 1986, when Caledonian decided to reorganise to repay bank debts. The company hired Price Waterhouse to report on the company's value and its trading.

At its height, Caledonian had a spread of businesses across Scotland. These included Melrose, the Edinburgh tea distributor, which has held a royal warrant since last century. There were also Clark Constable, a printing firm of which Sir Walter Scott was a founder shareholder, and the Farmers' Supply Association, an agricultural distributor.

The group had an annual turnover

of £56 million, and reported profits of £700,000 in 1984, the last year that audited accounts were published. Price Waterhouse's investigations, however, suggested that Caledonian's assets were far less than it had originally believed. Mr Forsyth said that Price Waterhouse took this information to the Hongkong Bank, which led eventually to the receivership.

During the liquidation, Price Waterhouse sold Melrose to Premier Brands, now part of Hillsdown, and Farmers' Supply was the subject of a management buyout.

The courts later appointed Grant Thornton as liquidator. The latter then sold the remaining assets and produced a surplus over the bank debts. Other parts of Caledonian were simply wound up. These included

Hargreaves Rice and Quinn, a Lloyd's insurance broker in London, which is now running off its business.

The case has already made Scottish legal history, since the Court of Session gave the four shareholders permission to sue Price Waterhouse, even after Grant Thornton, Caledonian's liquidator and effective controller, refused.

Mr Forsyth said that if the case succeeds, the money will be used to repay Caledonian's unsecured creditors, including shareholders and suppliers, who have suffered in the collapse.

Price Waterhouse has said that the Caledonian case is entirely without merit and has pledged a vigorous defence. The accountancy firm has already applied for more time to prepare its argument.

Brown & Tawse chief goes

By OUR CITY STAFF

KEITH Rae, chief executive of Brown & Tawse, the steel and pipeline distributor, has resigned with immediate effect after dissatisfaction in the City with the group's performance. Mr Rae, who has not been taken up a post with another company, will be paid compensation that has still to be agreed.

Gilbert Black, chairman, will take over as chief executive until a replacement can be found. Brown & Tawse made a pre-tax loss of £1.2 million in the year to end-March compared with profits of £6 million. The dividend was cut from 9.5p to 5.7p.

Philip Ashforth, finance director, said the board had been united and Mr Rae's resignation had been amicable. He said: "The board has been made conscious that the outside business world has not been happy with the group's performance recently." The shares were unchanged at 83p.

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WEEKEND MONEY

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Innocent will pick up Fimbra pieces

The news that the future of the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) is under review comes as no surprise to many investors and brokers. Nothing seems to have gone right for the regulator. It has barely survived a series of investment scandals from members supposedly vetted by the association, and has had to be bailed out twice by the companies of which it is supposed to be independent.

Now, investors face years of wrangling and uncertainty while the Securities and Investments Board decides who should authorise and regulate independent financial advisers. The fear must be that any change will allow those who have persisted to flout the rules to get away with it for ever longer.

It is already difficult enough for investors to have complaints dealt with. They are passed around like parcels from one regulator to another with all of them denying responsibility. A

further blurring of the system will not help.

Some brokers are questioning whether there will be an independent financial adviser sector left to regulate by the time the discussions have ended. The abandonment of the sector by National Westminster Bank is likely to encourage other waverers to sign up with insurance companies.

The members of Fimbra are concerned about the cost of providing protection for investors. Too many Fimbra members have disappeared after setting up private investment schemes offering wonderful returns.

Other, innocent members are left to pick up the pieces. Their bill for the compensation scheme has risen. Those running solid, honest businesses have begun to feel that Fimbra membership is not only costly but also a liability. The question of who is going to



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

pay to protect the public in the future is exercising more than a few minds.

Fimbra has tested the Financial Services Act in the High Court and now accepts that investments made since December 1986 are covered by the scheme. Fimbra had wanted to wriggle out of any responsibility for clients up until August 27, 1988.

Sir Kenneth Cusack, appointed to consider a replacement for Fimbra, has a thankless task in trying to provide an answer to how a disparate group of competing brokers can best be

organised. They range from large national networks to tiny local firms.

They have one thing in common. They want the regulatory system sorted out so they can get on with their business rather than lurching from problem to problem in the knowledge that the honest, careful ones are likely to pay repeatedly for the sins of others who appear to have been able to continue in their old ways regardless of the new supposedly tougher regime.

Those who are hoping the mess will be sorted out once and for all

may give a wry glance at the curriculum vitae of Sir Kenneth and notice that he has been an independent member of the Fimbra council since 1986.

Bond enquiry

No one can ever know what goes on in sitting rooms when salesmen scent a sale. They will say anything to investors to persuade them to sign on the dotted line for an insurance policy.

Some insurance salesmen have been having a field day in the last few months as they sold with-profits bonds on the strength of much higher returns than those available from building societies and banks.

Such has been their success that some companies have become concerned at the verbal

promises being made. In some cases, they may even be a little worried that disappointed investors may call on them to honour such guarantees in years to come.

Now, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) is acting to protect investors from overzealous sales spiel. It is beginning to look at the way with-profits bonds are sold and has called for the training notes as well as the literature produced by the insurance companies.

It should be ensured that salesmen understand the degree of risk and that the handsome rates of return cannot be guaranteed before they are let loose on the public.

The likely outcome is that the regulator will issue guidance notes. Lautro is rightly concerned that people may be investing without realising the true nature of the bonds. There is a definite place for them in many investment portfolios. But first the sales staff need to know what they are selling.

Small investors compete as equals in BT sell-off

EACH of BT's 20 million customers should have received a letter this week inviting them to register for shares in half the government's remaining £5 billion, 49 per cent stake in the company.

For the first time in a government sale, private investors will be able to compete on equal terms with institutional investors if they want to buy more than £3,000 worth of shares. They will also be offered a choice of eight share shops offering cheap dealing.

Those who register with BT's share information office will be given preference over people who apply directly on a public application form. Those who register and choose a share shop will be given priority if the issue is oversubscribed. Existing BT shareholders are automatically registered and will be eligible for incentives.

The sale is the latest in the government's privatisation programme, which started in 1981 with the sale of British Aerospace. The first half of BT was sold in 1984, attracting 1.4 million registrations and 2.3 million applications. About 1.25 million investors will hold shares in the company.

The sale of the 12 regional electricity companies in December last year was the largest yet, with 7.3 million registrations and 3.7 million applications. Less than 4 million of these still hold shares from the issue, however. With the 1986 British Gas flotation, in which 7.3 million people registered and 4.3 million people applied for shares, only 2.19 million still hold some or all of their allocation.

Investors who held on to their shares would have done well over the past ten years. Quilter Goodson, the stockbroker, has calculated that someone holding 100 shares in each privatisation since 1981 would have invested £2,825. The present capital value would be about £7,700. The dividends for the shares would be about £1,200 after tax. The calculation assumes an investment in a local water company and a local electricity company only. Investors would have benefited from all bonuses and paid all calls.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, announced in his Budget that he wanted to deepen share ownership and encourage investors to hold on to their shares or sell them to buy other stocks.

Privatisation shares have been priced to attract investors and normally start trading at a premium to the offer price.

For the first time, investors are being invited to select one of eight share shops chosen by the government. This is designed to encourage investors to hold on to their shares or, if they sell them, to buy more through the share shops. Ap-

Subscribers can avoid scaling down of shares, but they will have to pay, Sara McConnell reports



licants will receive two vouchers for cheap share sales and two for cheap share purchases. The vouchers can be used at any share shop, which will deal in between 20 and 30 popular stocks, as well as BT. The largest choice comes from the Midland, which will deal in any shares quoted on the stock market.

NatWest offers any stock on the FT-SE 100 index and Barclays is planning to offer more than 50 stocks. Those who keep their BT shares will qualify for incentives, likely to include bonus shares and discounts on subsequent instalments. There will not be discounts on telephone bills, unlike in the 1984 flotation.

Share shops guarantee cheap dealing, at £15 or less for three months after dealing starts, and customers of share shops will be first in line for incentives in the BT issue. Some will offer postal and telephone dealing only. Others, such as Lloyds, will offer over the counter dealing.

Investors can also get incentives if they register through a stockbroker or independent financial adviser. The deadline for this is October 22 and the application has

to be made in writing. Stockbrokers say they will offer competitive rates for cheap dealing services, but investors may have to wait for some of them to declare their hand.

Gavin Oldham, chief executive of the Share Centre, said the company would be waiting to see what share shops were charging, so that the Share Centre could match it.

The four main clearing banks, Barclays, National Westminster, Lloyds and Midland, plus the Abbey National and the Bank of Scotland, have all been selected by the Treasury, along with the Norwich & Peterborough Building Society, which owns Waters Lumis, the Norwich stockbroker, and Sharelink.

Investors, however, are almost certain to have to choose a share shop without knowing how much each will charge for buying and selling shares. The deadline for applying to a share shop has not yet been set but the government has forbidden share shops to reveal how much they will be charging until the time of the offer.

The government is concerned that share shops offering the lowest rate will be swamped with applicants keen

to sell on the first day of trading, as has happened with other privatisations.

The maximum price is expected to be £15 for deals of up to £1,000, while the maximum commission rate for deals above this is expected to be 1.5 per cent. Most share shops expect to charge less than this but are not going to offer the rock bottom prices some financial institutions were charging for selling electricity shares.

Some building societies, including the Skipton and the Leeds, offered free dealing to account holders who bought shares in the electricity privatisation.

There is also no guarantee that investors will continue to get cheap dealing prices after the three months. Most share shops are going to wait to see how much interest there is in dealing.

Midland has changed a minimum £15 flat fee in the past for the flotations but its normal minimum dealing charge is £20 or 1.5 per cent, whichever is the greater. The bank already has 65 share shops in branches and plans to have 100 by the end of the year.

Barclays has offered a cheap dealing service for recent privatisations such as electricity and water, selling shares for £12.50 per deal. A family of four with the same surname would also pay this price. Barclays' normal minimum fee is £28 per deal. Sharelink usually charges a minimum of £20 and also offered cheap dealing at £12.50 for postal dealing in privatisation stocks. Telephone dealing in privatisation stocks costs a minimum of £17.50.

Tony Vine-Lott, managing director of Barclays Stockbrokers, said: "We are looking at having cheaper dealing all the time but we haven't decided whether or not to do this. With issues like water and electricity it was the volume of business which made the difference and allowed us to cut the price."

Previous issues have in most cases been so heavily oversubscribed that allocations have been massively scaled down.

The flotation of the 12 regional electricity companies was 10.7 times oversubscribed. People applying for companies of which they were not customers in most cases received no shares at all if they applied for more than 100 shares. Customers did slightly better.

Investors who want to avoid a scaling down and are prepared to pay more for their shares will be able to bid for stock in competition with institutions through their stockbroker. They will not, however, be eligible for share shop coupons or discounted deals.

SHARE shops and stockbrokers are likely to offer investors the option to put up to £3,000 worth of BT shares into a single company personal equity plan (Pep) when dealing starts in the new issue of shares. The plans will be available for the first time on January 1 next year, and all dividends and capital growth will be tax free (Sara McConnell writes).

Single company Peps were announced in this year's Budget. Investors will still be able to put £6,000 into an ordinary Pep as well as having £3,000 in a single company plan.

Investors will be allowed to put the shares directly into a Pep rather than having to sell them, paying dealing costs, and invest the proceeds, as with existing shares.

The Inland Revenue said the sale of BT shares would be considered a new issue, as long as they were put into a Pep within 42 days. Those who intend to pay the two further instalments for the partly-paid shares, however, will have to take out another single company Pep in the next tax year to avoid exceeding the £3,000 annual limit.

Barclays and Sharelink both said they would be interested in offering a single company Pep. Tony Vine-Lott, Barclays stockbrokers' managing director, said: "A Pep is the perfect way to invest an allocation."

David Jones, managing

New style Pep offers option for shareholders

director of Sharelink, said the broker would be offering a corporate Pep but also a self select Pep with a maximum of £6,000.

Some stockbrokers are also planning to make such a Pep a feature of their service. Gavin Oldham, chief executive of the Share Centre in Tring, Hertfordshire, said the centre was going to tender for shares for clients in competition with institutional investors to make sure people have a large enough allocation to use up the full single company Pep allowance.

Walker, Crips, Weddie, Beck, the London stockbroker, is also planning to bid for a larger allocation of shares for clients. Those whose brokers are successful in bidding and who are prepared to pay more will avoid having their application scaled down.

Those who are not prepared to pay more and who find themselves left with a small allocation of shares to add to small allocations from other

privatisations could consider putting all the stocks into a Pep. Barclays has been running a plan with British Airways since July this year. The Pep will accept any privatisation stock or other small share holding.

Selling a privatisation stock and putting it into the Pep costs a minimum of £10 per deal, while selling other stocks costs £20. Postal dealing costs £10 minimum, while telephone dealing costs £18.50 minimum. There are several thousand Pep holders.

Another option is a share exchange scheme, under which a Pep manager takes small numbers of shares, sells them and invests the proceeds in a Pep. Any capital growth or dividends are tax free. Some companies have higher charges than others, however, and some will not accept very small holdings.

Invesco MIM, formerly MIM Britannia, will charge investors for selling shares as long as they are not

too obscure. There is no minimum size of holding.

Keith Crowley, MIM's marketing director, said: "We will sell the shares in the market place and absorb the broking charges. A lot of people only have £100 or £200 worth of shares. If they try and sell through a bank or a building society, unless there is a special deal, they will probably pay £25 per holding."

Investors can use share exchange for part or all of a Pep holding, topping up with cash. Those who try to sell large amounts of stock to benefit from free dealing, putting only a small amount in a Pep, are not welcome, however. There is a choice of two Peps and the standard charge is 5 per cent up front and 1.5 per cent annually.

Save & Prosper will charge, in certain circumstances, for selling shares to put into a Pep or unit trust. The company will be able to absorb most privatisation stocks into its unit trust portfolio so investors will not have to pay commission.

If the shares have to be sold rather than absorbed, shares will be sold by a broker. If the total holding is worth at least £2,500 and each holding is worth more than £1,000, S&P will pay the broker's commission. If the holding is smaller than this, the investor will have to pay the commission. The cost depends on the size of the holding.

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Post may hold up certificates

FOR the third consecutive year, investors could spend the run-up to Christmas worrying that share certificates have been caught in the Christmas post (Sara McConnell writes).

A firm timetable has yet to be set for the sale of another tranche of BT. It is expected, however, to follow roughly the same pattern as the water privatisation in 1989 and the electricity companies last year, but two to three weeks later.

Investors were invited to register for electricity shares on September 12 last year, three weeks earlier than this week's invitation for BT. The pathfinder prospectus that detailed the structure of the

electricity offer and bonuses was published on November 3. The BT pathfinder is scheduled for mid-November.

Like other government sales, shares will be paid for in three instalments. For the first time in a privatisation, however, the retail price for the first instalment will be fixed when the pathfinder prospectus is launched. The price for international investors will be fixed a week later, at discount day, so that private investors have a built-in discount. This should ensure that investors will not pay a higher price than institutions if the market falls.

The price of the second instalment is

the same for all investors and will be fixed at the time the pathfinder is launched. The price of the third will depend on the amount institutions and brokers are tendering. Tender bids will be made close to the day dealings start.

Electricity share dealings started on December 11, a week after the offer closed. If dealings begin in the new issue even a week later, interim certificates are bound to be caught in the Christmas post. Many brokers allowed investors to deal before receiving their certificates last year. This will not be an option this time for people selling through share shops, as vouchers will only be sent out with certificates.

BRIEFINGS

CUSTOMERS with buildings and contents insurance from Abbey National will be offered unlimited cover with their policies from Monday. Those who limit their cover to "primary cover" for buildings, contents, or both, will pay less. This cover will pay out an

unlimited amount for fire, flood, storm damage and subsidence, as well as limited accidental damage to windows and bathroom suites under the buildings cover and televisions, mirrors and music systems.

Girobank is raising its charges for sending money abroad. Transfer to a foreign Giro account and payment by cheque will cost £15 while payment overseas in cash will cost £25. The American Express money order service will be withdrawn on October 1 and will be replaced by an

American dollar draft costing £15. AA customers buying a motor or Homesure policy will receive a free copy of the AA Weekend Breaks Directory containing vouchers for three weekends worth up to £450.

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New funds put their trust in commercial property

By RUPERT BRUCE

WAREHOUSES, shops and offices might seem unlikely investments for a unit trust, but two funds investing in commercial property have just been launched.

In theory, the trusts should rise in value as the British economy pulls out of recession and commercial property prices rise. Both the new unit trusts, the Norwich Property Trust and the Barclays Unicorn Property Trust, offer a high income yield of about 7.5 per cent gross and the prospect of capital gain later. Neither, of course, is guaranteed and there is a danger that savers could find themselves unable to sell when they want to.

In 1981, Henderson Administration, the fund management group, launched a life fund, called the Prime Residential Property Fund, to invest in residential property in central London. The fund ballooned from £5 million initially to £95 million in the spring of 1987.

Then financial advisers decided it was time their clients invested in the stock market and switched out of the fund. Henderson could not sell property fast enough to pay off investors and no one received a payout for a year.

The Securities and Investments Board has tried to guard against new style funds repeating this. At most, 80 per cent of funds can be invested in property and the rest must be kept in cash or saleable securities, such as property-related shares or gilts. Henderson's fund, however, was never more than 85 per cent invested in property.

The Norwich Property Trust and the Barclays Property Trust have substantial sums already in the unit trusts, which were previously in unauthorised property funds. This money has proved much less fickle than Henderson's was, so as long as the unit trusts do not grow too much, they should not have liquidity problems.

Chris Laxton, Norwich Property Trust's fund manager, said: "Our main life fund has about £50 million in the unit trust... I think it is pretty important that one does avoid unitholders from outside becoming big holders of the fund."

Save & Prosper, the invest-



'Prospect for rental value to grow' Chris Laxton

ment management group, has property funds for its life insurance and pension policies but decided against launching a unit trust. Paul Bateman, the chief executive, said: "We did look at it, but we decided that the main way

be forced to buy or sell property. This might help explain why the Micropal index of life funds investing in property has underperformed the James Lang Wootton index of commercial property prices

'What no one disputes is that prices are at or near the bottom and should rise soon'

that our money comes in, through regular premium contributions, and having a regular cashflow without a huge sudden inflow, which later turns into a huge sudden outflow, is the ideal way of managing the funds."

Therefore, if the tide of money flowing in and out of a property fund ebbs and flows rapidly, it becomes difficult to manage because the fund may

Barclays has an initial charge of 5.25 per cent and an annual charge of 0.75 per cent. Norwich Union has an initial fee of 6 per cent and an annual one of 1.25 per cent.

Mr Bateman said that although commercial property prices were depressed at the moment, there was not much scope for investment. There was not enough prime retail or industrial property around for a manager to invest easily the £15 million or so a unit trust might hope to attract, he said.

What no one disputes is that prices are at or near the bottom and should rise soon. Kieran Patel, an investment analyst at Hillier Parker, the chartered surveyor, said rental yields on commercial property are at an all time high of 9.4 per cent. They reached a previous high of 8.6 per cent in 1974.

Mr Patel said investors were now starting to invest for the income yield, which has stopped rising. The next step must be a rise in prices.

The Barclays Unicorn and Norwich Union trusts are concentrating on retail property. They believe that the British economy will be led out of recession by consumer spending, so shops should be the first to benefit.

Norwich Union is still switching into this type of property. Mr Laxton bought a £925,000 warehouse in Grantham, Lincolnshire, from Halfords last week. At a rent of £6.50 a square foot, the property has a yield of 10.3 per cent. "We feel that there is a prospect for the yield to improve and the rental value to grow," Mr Laxton said.

Investors who agree with this optimistic view of the market should be aware that they can also invest in the commercial property market through shares.

While the two new trusts are not as vulnerable to liquidity crises as the Henderson fund, investors should heed the compulsory health warning on the funds.

The Norwich Property Trust warning reads: "Please note that we may not be able to realise your investment when you choose because property in the fund may not always be readily saleable. During periods when it is not readily saleable, Norwich Union may refuse to repurchase units."

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Funds hit by stock market slumps

Actuaries agree bonus cuts

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

BONUS rates for with-profits policyholders are set to fall this year after actuaries from the top 20 life offices met last Friday and indicated that bonuses had been set too high in past years.

With-profits funds were badly hit by recent slumps in the stock market but the need to compete pushed them into larger payouts than they could afford.

The informal meeting was called by Hugh Scurfield, the president of the Institute of Actuaries and chief actuary and general manager of Norwich Union. The last time such a meeting was called by the institute was more than three years ago, a few months after the stock market crash. The life companies fear that they will not be able to sell their policies in a competitive market if they reduce their bonus rates, but their investment experience over the past two years is telling them to do so.

Those present stressed that the institute was not attempting to operate a cartel to reduce bonus rates on with-profits policies. The discussion is, however, likely to influence life companies as they consider the bonus levels to set at the end of the year.

Mr Scurfield said: "Professionally, it seemed a good idea to share each other's thoughts about our overall experience. We were not trying to reduce or limit anyone's freedom of action."

"We started to talk about the investment background in which we are now operating. The fact is that the market had gone down heavily last year and this year it has come back up, although not enough up to say that we have two good investment years."

"The two years together resulted in two mediocre investment years and not the sort of investment years we had in the Eighties. We all agreed on that. No one was in any doubt that it would have some impact on bonuses. To say we did not talk about bonuses would be nonsense. We obviously did."



Scurfield: 'good idea'

"It will be interesting to see what happens at the end of the year from a number of companies. Inevitably, payouts will have to react. It will be the short term ten-year payouts that will have to react most."

He continued: "We talked about the inevitability of lower returns in the Nineties than we had in the Eighties. With lower returns we expect that payouts will come down and as payouts come down reversionary bonuses will come down. We were not trying to talk detailed bonuses. That we did avoid."

Last year, companies took the view that they were taking decisions on bonus rates in the middle of a trough. They therefore dipped into their reserves to maintain bonuses and smooth the returns on their policies. After the end of the Gulf war they expected investment performance to recover. It has not done so sufficiently.

Mr Scurfield added: "As the actuaries of the funds, we do recognise our positions as the trustees of the policyholders. It is quite natural for the trustees, especially as investment markets are not as good as before, to ensure we are doing the right things for policyholders and protecting their interests."

The returns on with-profits policies since the stock market crash have been higher than the untraded managed funds. This can only be achieved by dipping into reserves, but now several of the companies represented at the meeting are

concerned that the returns cannot be afforded.

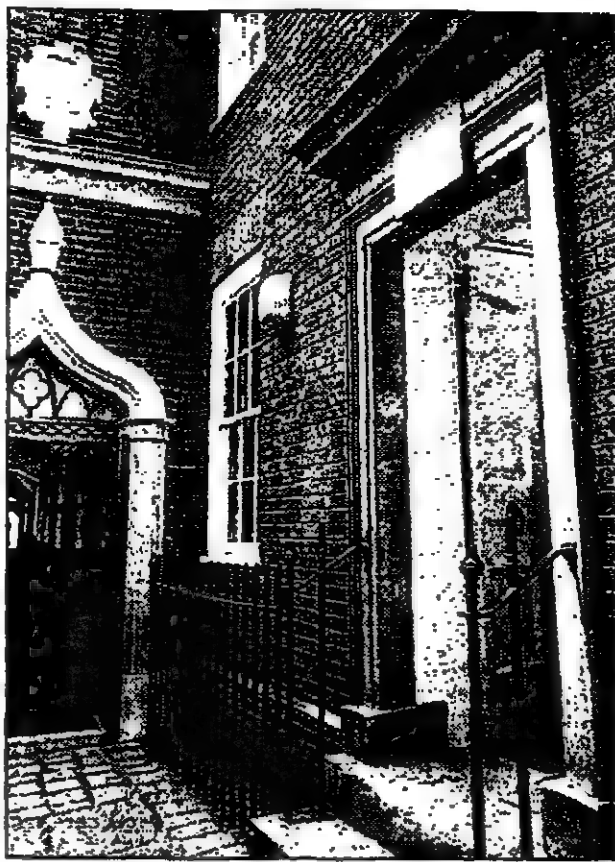
The bonus levels have also influenced the investment policies of fund managers. Higher investment in gilts have been made to increase the yield, leaving less scope to invest in equities.

One actuary said: "Every office is suffering. We are hoping this will sober the market up a bit. There is no doubt that with-profits cannot continue to pay out more than managed funds each year. The meeting had to take place now. The results are out in January."

Tony Russell, actuary at Eagle Star, said: "Taking the two years as a whole, investment performance has not been great. We have got to look at the ending down of maturity benefits. We are not yet in the season of deciding the bonus levels. There is still three months to go."

"Equity returns were unusually high in the Eighties. In the longer term, the returns are likely to be lower."

He added that no definite commitments were made at the meeting, although he conceded: "Thinking may have been influenced by what said at the meeting."



Informal meeting: the Institute of Actuaries' HQ

Lautro to investigate 'misleading' sales of with-profit bonds

THE Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) is investigating the way with-profits insurance bonds are being sold. The regulator is checking the sales literature, sales training programmes and advertisements to make sure that investors are not being led to believe that returns are guaranteed (Lindsay Cook writes).

Prudential, Legal & General and Norwich Union supplied the information this week and it is now being analysed. Guidance notes are then likely to be published by Lautro on how the bonds should be sold.

The bonds have enjoyed considerable success in the past three to four months, with more than £1 billion being invested this year as the interest rates from building societies and banks have fallen.

Weekend Money warned investors last month of the misleading way the bonds were being sold.

Mike Abrahams, chief compliance officer, said: "We are keen to make sure that what is said in the sitting room and in the brochures accurately reflects the degree of risk and

that there is no indication that the return is guaranteed."

With endowment business reduced because of the poor property market, salesmen have leapt at the chance to sell the new-style bonds which pay commission of up to 5.88 per cent. This is nearly double the rate for selling unit trusts and works out at almost £600 for every £10,000 invested.

Some salesmen have not been entirely honest in the way they have tried to sell the bonds. Instead of making it clear the bonds are a medium to long term investment in the stock market that can outperform deposit accounts, they are sold as alternatives to savings accounts.

In one case, a widow with £30,000 from her husband's life assurance to invest was told to put it all in a bond and was given a typewritten sheet, which stated that there was no risk, that the return was guaranteed and that it was better than interest levels attainable from building societies.

The rates have already come down in some cases. Norwich Union cut its rate in the summer from 10.5 per cent to 9.75 per cent net. The

rates depend largely on the returns on the investments made by the insurance companies. To pay out a net annual rate of 10 per cent they have to earn a gross return of 13 per cent unless they are willing to dip into their reserves.

Projected cash values given for the first five years of the bonds by insurance companies assume that current bonus rates will be maintained. Some companies are enhancing these calculations by including terminal bonuses that make their rates look competitive. Terminal bonuses are even less certain than annual ones, although companies obviously hope to maintain them.

Most companies reserve the right to make a "market value adjustment" on surrender. This could mean that if the stock market has fallen dramatically the value of the investment will be reduced on encashment. General Accident makes early redemption charges on money withdrawn from its with-profits bond in the first three years.

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Help for home plan debtors

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE Cheltenham & Gloucester building society has this week written to 400 elderly customers who took out mortgages as part of a home income plan, to ask them to

contact the society and discuss rescheduling or reducing their mortgage repayments.

Many of these people are faced with large monthly payments that they cannot afford. They were encouraged by financial advisers to take out a mortgage on a property and invest the money in an investment bond. Income from the bond was intended to cover mortgage repayments but the value of the bonds fell. Some borrowers could now lose their homes.

The C&G has set up a free telephone line, 0800 272 383, for people to make appointments to discuss their mortgage. Twelve branches in the South-east have been chosen as contact points, but people can choose to be visited in their homes if they prefer.

The C&G said: "We will be suggesting various options, like paying at a fixed rate or rolling up some of the interest. It will probably be necessary

for borrowers to surrender the bond." However, it had not made any non-possession guarantees.

Nearly half the borrowers were lent money by the Guardian, the Pockham and the Portsmouth building societies, which have since been taken over by the C&G. The remaining 216 borrowers took out mortgages with the C&G itself.

Other building societies have also started rescheduling such payments. The West Bromwich has 1,800 borrowers with home income plans, whom it is now visiting to discuss mortgage problems.

Building societies, brokers and insurance companies face legal action from about 15 elderly clients. Barnett Sampson, the solicitor, yesterday instructed counsel to formulate court proceedings and called on societies and insurers to cancel mortgage debts and pay up bonds.

Customers warned to destroy discarded carbons

Phantom fraudster copied credit card magnetic strip

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

GERALD and Pat Bradley were surprised when their credit card bill contained 17 items they had not bought from shops they had not visited. When they contacted Barclaycard to find out what had happened, the company arranged to send the sales vouchers to the couple in Bookham, Surrey.

Mrs Bradley said: "I think they expected us to see the vouchers and suddenly remember we had bought all the things. When the vouchers arrived they did not match either of our signatures."

The account details were identical to the couple's, neither of whom had lost their cards. Over the next six months, more mysterious items appeared on their bills. These were mostly bought in the Southampton area, although a few were at an electrical shop not far from their home.

Eventually, the Bradleys asked for a new account number and the "phantom" purchases stopped. In the meantime, £1,300 had been billed to the couple, although Barclaycard cancelled all the fraudulent spending when the items were identified.

The mystery was cleared up when a sharp-eyed sales assistant became suspicious about



Victims: Gerald and Pat Bradley's card was copied

a customer. The result was a three-year jail sentence for the fraudster, who had produced a counterfeit magnetic strip using details from the couple's account. This had been attached to his card and every time he bought something from a store with an electronic till the bill was sent to the Bradleys' account.

Barclaycard said only two

other similar frauds have been discovered. Barry Fergus, director of fraud control at Barclaycard, said that it was more sophisticated than counterfeit cards produced in the Far East.

The information needed to encode the fake magnetic strip had probably been obtained from a discarded credit card carbon. The information

given by a customer when buying items on the telephone with a card would not be sufficient to make a strip.

This week, Mr Fergus attended a conference in Venice, to look at ways of combating card fraud involving counterfeit cards and strips. He said: "In the Far East, they are counterfeiting cards but they cannot be used electronically. In the States, they are copying magnetic strips on to other bits of plastic. We need to look at the best ways of stopping these frauds."

He warned cardholders to make the carbons and destroy them when shopping, especially abroad. Customers should also check their statements carefully and contact their card issuer if there are items they do not recognise. They should also report a missing card immediately.

Barclaycard launched Fraudwatch in June to check all vouchers for deviations from the normal pattern of spending. These may indicate a card has been stolen without the owner knowing. When it started, 200 to 300 customers were called every day to find out if their card was missing. About 4 per cent reported they were. Since then the system has been refined and twice as many people are being told by the company that their card is missing before they have even realised.

Laser photocard enters trials

THE Royal Bank of Scotland is adding customers' photographs to bank cards in an effort to combat fraud. If a pilot scheme is successful, all customers may be charged for cheque guarantee and cash dispenser cards (Lindsay Cook writes).

During the pilot, which began this week, up to 30,000 customers in Edinburgh, Glasgow, London and Manchester are being asked to supply photographs and signatures for the new Highline cards, which can be used as cheque guarantee, cash dispenser and debit cards. Photographs could also be added to the bank's credit cards later.

Tony Schofield, managing director of the bank's branch

banking division, said: "We would envisage, however, that the eventual new 'supercard' will involve a small charge to customers for the added security and allied benefits." The bank estimates that it would cost £100 million to replace the 30 million existing cards with photocards.

The bank is using lasers to burn the images of the photograph and signature into the plastic cards, to make it difficult for thieves to tamper with the images.

Last year, banks and building societies lost £122.5 million through plastic card fraud. Retailers suffered further losses when staff carelessness contributed to the fraud.

Cards with photographs of customers may enable card issuers to charge more of their losses to retailers. Currently, if a sales assistant does not check the signature or the expiry date on a card, the bank may charge any loss to them.

Later this month, bank representatives will meet Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, to discuss proposals made by the crime prevention unit in June. The report said laser engraved photographs could reduce the number of people able to pass off a card as their own. But the unit conceded that the costs of producing the cards may be as much as the reduction in fraud.

Elizabeth Phillips, director general of the Credit Card Research Group, welcomed the Royal Bank of Scotland's initiative. She said: "It will be useful to have this pilot to see if it reduces fraud before any decision is taken on whether all cards should carry photographs."

She was concerned that sales assistants who challenged fraudulent users of cards may put themselves in danger. She pointed out that it was easier for them to tell a customer that a machine had rejected their card than to question the identity of the user.

In America, the use of photographs for identity purposes had been discredited by people sticking pictures of King Kong on their cards and not being challenged, she added.

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Lenders favour smaller mortgages

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

BORROWERS applying for loans of up to £75,000 are being offered a lower interest rate than larger loans by First Mortgage Securities. The smaller loans can be fixed at 10.25 per cent for two years, an annual percentage rate of 12.25 per cent. Larger loans cost 10.6 per cent (APR 12.29 per cent).

Larger lenders have been concentrating on those homebuyers wanting to borrow most. The FMS loan has an arrangement fee of £250 and borrowers who redeem during the fixed rate period pay three months' interest and one month's thereafter.

The North of England Building Society has mortgages fixed at 10.4 per cent for five years (APR 12.1 per cent). There is a £195 application fee.

The Town & Country Building Society is offering a four-year fixed-rate loan at 9.5 per cent in the first year and 10.5 per cent for the following three years. This gives an APR of 12.3 per cent, available on loans above £15,000. There is a £195 application fee.

Hill Samuel Mortgage Services has launched a fixed-rate loan over five years at 10.5 per cent (APR 11.3 per cent), which also has a low start option allowing up to 3 per cent of the interest in year one to be deferred. An administration fee of £345 is charged and four months' interest has to be paid in the first two years for redemptions. This is then reduced to three months.

Record of arrears could be bar to cheaper loans

By SARA MCCONNELL

BORROWERS with a record of arrears in the past three years may find it difficult to remortgage to take advantage of cheaper loans currently being offered.

Building societies are also reluctant to lend to those with county court judgments against them as they have to use extra capital to cover the increased risk of the loans.

The Building Societies Commission in April gave societies six months to implement redefined guidelines on the capital needed to cover certain types of risky loans. These specified that the definition of borrowers with known debt problems should include those who are three months or more in arrears with mortgage, rent or other loan repayments, or who have a county court judgement against them for more than £250.

Borrowers are also considered high risk if they have more than one county court judgement for any amount.

Various types of riskier loans, including those where the interest is rolled up and added to the loan, and low start mortgages, now also require extra capital.

Norman Digance, secretary to the commission, said: "We are saying that some types of loan are riskier than standard repayment loans and need more capital."

"Many societies have withdrawn lending on these sorts of mortgages. The same applies where societies are lending to people with known levels of debt."



ing to people with known levels of debt."

Societies who wished to take greater lending risks had been recalculating their capital requirements over the past six months, he added.

The Skipton Building Society gave warning that borrowers in debt would find it more difficult to obtain another loan, even if they went into arrears for a good reason.

The society said that it would cost the same in capital reserves to lend one borrower with debt problems £50,000 as it would to lend two borrowers

with no debt problems £50,000 each.

Risk is assessed on a points system. Safe mortgages of up to 95 per cent of the value of the property have to be covered by capital of 2 per cent of the amount borrowed. Loans to borrowers with known debt problems have to be covered with capital of 4 per cent of the amount borrowed. If the borrower is six months or more in arrears, the rules require cover of an additional 10 per cent of the amount borrowed.

John Goodfellow, the

Skipton's chief executive, said: "There is no doubt that borrowers currently or recently in debt will find it more and more difficult to obtain another mortgage."

"Many will be given the advice to remain where they are until the three-year period has passed and acquire a satisfactory repayment record. There may be some societies who will still offer assistance but this will be very much on a price differential basis and borrowers with debt difficulties may find the cost prohibitive."

John Carrier, deputy chief executive of the Scarborough Building Society, said: "This will make it more difficult for some people to get mortgages because some societies will not lend to borrowers with track records of debt."

"A lot will depend on the capital position of the society. It will also be more difficult to remortgage."

He said that people in arrears would be better off sticking with the society that gave them the original loan and building up a good track record rather than approaching another society.

Building societies will know if a borrower has a record of arrears because they normally ask for references or statements from a previous lender to check whether an applicant can meet monthly repayments. They can also check on the new register set up by the Council of Mortgage Lenders in August, which lists all those whose homes have been repossessed.

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Please Tick

(Mr/Mrs/Miss)

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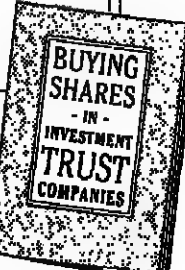
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Down and down go the rates

By Robert Choe

June. Earnings in many rose 8 per cent and in some 10 per cent. Earnings growth was strong.

Savers hit by more cuts
SAVINGS rates are on the way down. The recent base rate cut has hit savers hard.

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Please send me further details ☐ (Please tick).

Name(s)

Address

Postcode

Signature(s)

Bank reimbursed account after theft uncovered

From P.D. Atkinson
Sir, I refer to the letter from Roy Worthington (Weekend Money Letters, September 28). The following is my experience.

Our house was burgled while we were on holiday in June. Among the items identified as lost were my wife's and my passports.

Approximately four weeks

after the burglary I discovered that the thieves had also taken my Eurocheque book (8 or 9 cheques) and Eurocheque card. £800 had been drawn from my account using these cheques at locations on the Continent.

On reporting the loss in person at my Barclays branch I was informed that I would not be liable for this loss. The

total sum drawn using the stolen cheques was credited to my account and I was reimbursed for the charges incurred due to my account being overdrawn by the fraudulent transaction. Yours faithfully,
P.D. ATKINSON,
63 Hooombe Road,
Chandlers Ford,
Hampshire.

LETTERS

No, Beattie,
I haven't
got your
plumber's
bill.



Silent society

From Marguerite Bowers
Sir, Letters published Saturday 28 September in your column from Mr MacNeill, M.J. Calder and Mrs Lorna Campbell, concerning their displeasure with the Nationwide Anglia Building Society rang a bell. Let me reassure them that they are not alone.

An area manager visiting my local branch sent a fax in his name to try and help, but again no reply, nor do they answer the phone to customers or branch staff. It would appear they are not easily moved.

I have written to the chairman, Roy Duncombe, again today and would recommend that the Nationwide's less happy customers do so too.

You won't get a reply, but it may make you feel better.

Yours faithfully,
MARGUERITE BOWERS,
37 The Farthings,
Kingston Hill,
Kingston upon Thames,
Surrey.

their customers feel better, the Nationwide do not communicate with their branches either.

What action, if any, may be taken against the company who clearly have no concept of the old adage "my word is my bond"?

Yours faithfully,
C.J. NICKLESS,
The Hawthornes,
121 Maidstone Road,
Chatham,
Kent.

Forgotten assurance

From Mr C.J. Nickless
Sir, Ten years ago, I took out an assurance policy with a particular company.

One of the guaranteed options was that on certain anniversaries, the tenth being one such, I could increase the amount payable without medical evidence or the like.

Three months ago, therefore, I asked for an illustration of the return I would expect if I were to increase my monthly payment by £30 a month.

I was told both verbally and in writing that the company were no longer marketing the plan and I would therefore have to take out another plan altogether.

What action, if any, may be taken against the company who clearly have no concept of the old adage "my word is my bond"?

Yours faithfully,
C.J. NICKLESS,
The Hawthornes,
121 Maidstone Road,
Chatham,
Kent.

© Letters are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

	Normal rate	Compounded at last rates 25% 40%	Min/Max Investment £	Notice	Current
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c: Typical	2.53	2.56	2.12	none/none	7 day
Fixed Term Deposits:					
Savings	7.13	7.13	5.70	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-488 1807
Bankers	7.27	7.27	5.82	25,000-50,000	3 mth 071-488 1307
Lloyds	6.42	6.42	5.14	2,500-10 max	1 mth Local Branch
Midland	6.51	6.51	5.21	2,500-10 max	6 mth Local Branch
NatWest	6.50	6.50	5.44	2,500-10 max	1 mth 071-488 1307
Overdraft	6.56	6.56	5.25	10,000-24,000	3 mth 0745 525000
Overdraft	6.56	6.56	5.33	10,000-24,000	1 mth 071-488 1307
Overdraft	6.56	6.56	5.33	10,000-24,000	3 mth 071-488 1307
Overdraft	6.56	6.56	5.33	10,000-24,000	6 mth 071-488 1307

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SCORERS FROM

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MONEY MARKETS

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1886 was down at 90.9 (day's range 90.9-91.0).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Rate Dates for Oct 4	Range	Close	1 month	3 months
Australia	3.8802-3.2988	3.8928-3.2988	10-5p	1-5p
Canada	10.67-10.15	10.67-10.05	10-5p	1-5p
France	11.2180-11.2528	11.2320-11.2528	10-5p	1-5p
Germany	1.0815-1.0877	1.0857-1.0857	10-5p	1-5p
India	2.5113-2.5179	2.5145-2.5179	10-5p	1-5p
Japan	1.6882-1.6912	1.6892-1.6912	10-5p	1-5p
Netherlands	1.6334-1.6438	1.6334-1.6438	10-5p	1-5p
Portugal	2174.94-2181.72	2178.98-2181.72	10-5p	1-5p
Spain	1.7362-1.7378	1.7362-1.7378	10-5p	1-5p
Sweden	11.2887-11.4177	11.2887-11.4177	10-5p	1-5p
Switzerland	9.8175-9.8478	9.8175-9.8478	10-5p	1-5p
Taiwan	10.8333-10.8418	10.8333-10.8418	10-5p	1-5p
Thailand	225.13-227.87	225.13-227.87	10-5p	1-5p
U.K.	9.44-9.45	9.44-9.45	10-5p	1-5p
U.S.	1.23-1.2338	1.23-1.2338	10-5p	1-5p
Yemen	2.5462-2.5524	2.5462-2.5524	10-5p	1-5p

MONEY RATES (%)

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U.S.	1.23-1.2338	1.23-1.2338	10-5p	1-5p
Yemen	2.5462-2.5524	2.5462-2.5524	10-5p	1-5p

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina auster	17854-17385-1
Australia dollar	2.1821-2.1854
Bahian	8.6856-8.6856
Brazil cruzeiro	942.57-943.84
Cyprus pound	0.8084-0.8184
Poland zloty	2.075-2.08
German drachma	924.15-924.36
Hong Kong dollar	15.4708-15.4884
India rupee	81.5625-81.5625
Kenya shilling	0.4826-0.5045
Malaya dollar	4.7384-4.7384
Manila peso	8.625-8.625
New Zealand dollar	3.0861-3.0794
Saudi riyal	1.6325-1.6325
Singapore dollar	2.3300-2.3423
S.A. Rand (r/y)	2.9898-2.9898
S. Africa rand (r/y)	4.7763-4.7824
U.A.E. dirham	6.382-6.485

Source: Bank of England

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Australia	1.5591-1.5592
Austria	11.715-11.78
Belgian (Cofe)	34.45-34.50
Canada	1.1320-1.1326
Denmark	6.8210-6.8280
Germany	5.5760-5.5800
France	1.6740-1.6745
Hong Kong	7.7408-7.7479
India	1.0036-1.0039
Italy	1.2930-1.2931
Japan	129.90-130.00
Netherlands	1.6334-1.6335
Norway	1.6334-1.6335
Portugal	6.5450-6.5490
Spain	1.6334-1.6335
Sweden	1.6334-1.6335
Switzerland	1.4550-1.4570

TEASURY BILL: 5% Apr 82: 93.78; 6% Apr 82: 93.78; 7% Apr 82: 93.78; 8% Apr 82: 93.78; 9% Apr 82: 93.78; 10% Apr 82: 93.78; 11% Apr 82: 93.78; 12% Apr 82: 93.78; 13% Apr 82: 93.78; 14% Apr 82: 93.78; 15% Apr 82: 93.78; 16% Apr 82: 93.78; 17% Apr 82: 93.78; 18% Apr 82: 93.78; 19% Apr 82: 93.78; 20% Apr

**Bough's sw
ITV's rug**

THE WEEK'S IN

Woosnam's No. 1 golf ranking under threat

Olazábal charges two shots clear at halfway stage

Stuttgart — José María Olazábal insists he is running on low batteries, but he still had enough energy left to outshine his Ryder Cup colleagues in the German Masters in Stuttgart yesterday.

A round of 64, which included nine birdies, left him two strokes clear of the field at nine under par after two rounds as he chased his fourth tournament victory of the season. Malcolm Mackenzie, from Sheffield, lies second after a 67, two shots behind, with Steven Richardson (71), Nick Faldo (71) and Vicente Fernández, of Argentina (71), a stroke further in arrears.

Olazábal could have matched Ian Woosnam's year-old course record of 62 had he not missed when trying to save par at the 11th, and then rolled two birdie putts wide from within ten feet.

Woosnam's grip on the No. 1 world ranking is also under threat. Victory here would enable Olazábal to unseat him after nearly six months at the top, although Olazábal says that has not given him any extra motivation.

He is surprised, though, at his continued good form after taking the Epsom Grand Prix title with a score of 19 under par at St Pierre, and winning three-and-a-half points in the Ryder Cup at Kiawah Island.

"My batteries are very low," Olazábal said. "I just thought I'd see how I was going on after two rounds. I expected nothing."

Olazábal would be the fifth European to head the world rankings after Bernhard Langer, Ballesteros, Faldo and Woosnam, who has been at the top since he won the

Masters in April, but is resting this week.

"Being world No. 1 is not important to me," Olazábal said. "Besides, nobody can really say he is the best player in the world."

Faldo and Ballesteros would probably agree with that. Ballesteros blasted his drive out of bounds at the last, then put his fourth into a bunker before eventually holing out for a double bogey seven. He finished with a 72 for three under par.

Faldo birdied just one of the par-fives, the 2nd, and took six at the par-four 16th after carving a six-iron into trees.

The holder, Sam Torrance, booked an early flight back to Largs after a 71 failed to make amends for his "tired, demoralised and disorientated" 78 the previous day.

Cairns, Australia — Danielle Ammaccapane of the United States, named the fierce Paradise Palms course yesterday in the first round of the women's world championship.

Ammaccapane, aged 25, recorded a four-under-par 69, three strokes ahead of Corinne Dineen, of Australia, Laura Davies, of Britain, and her compatriot, Dottie Mochrie.

"It's a very difficult course," Ammaccapane said. "It's tough. I have a headache right now. You have to think so much out there."

SCORES FROM THE WEEK

LEADERBOARD SECOND-ROUND SCORES (68 and 70 unless stated): 1. Olazábal (Sp), 71, 64, 135; 2. Mackenzie (Sc), 67, 138; 3. Richardson (Sc), 71, 139; 4. Fernández (Arg), 71, 140; 5. Faldo (Eng), 71, 141; 6. Torrance (Sc), 78, 149; 7. Ballesteros (Sp), 69, 72; 8. Langer (Ger), 72, 70; 9. Woosnam (Wales), 73, 70; 10. Wainwright (Eng), 73, 70; 11. Watson (US), 73, 70; 12. Langer (Ger), 73, 70; 13. Faldo (Eng), 73, 70; 14. Woosnam (Wales), 73, 70; 15. Wainwright (Eng), 73, 70; 16. Watson (US), 73, 70; 17. Langer (Ger), 73, 70; 18. Faldo (Eng), 73, 70; 19. Woosnam (Wales), 73, 70; 20. Wainwright (Eng), 73, 70; 21. Watson (US), 73, 70; 22. Langer (Ger), 73, 70; 23. Faldo (Eng), 73, 70; 24. Woosnam (Wales), 73, 70; 25. Wainwright (Eng), 73, 70; 26. Watson (US), 73, 70; 27. Langer (Ger), 73, 70; 28. Faldo (Eng), 73, 70; 29. Woosnam (Wales), 73, 70; 30. Wainwright (Eng), 73, 70; 31. Watson (US), 73, 70; 32. Langer (Ger), 73, 70; 33. Faldo (Eng), 73, 70; 34. Woosnam (Wales), 73, 70; 35. 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Generous to join the greats

From RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

THE heart and the form book say Generous first, the rest nowhere as the best field for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp tomorrow. Sadly, history and the record books predict a less happy outcome.

Since the inaugural running of Europe's premier middle distance race in 1920, a total of 139 British-trained runners have crossed the Chantilly in search of glory. All but eight have failed.

Generous will be the tenth favourite for the race from Britain in the past 26 years, and the fifth in the last six years. Yet only two great horses, Mill Reef in 1971 and Dancing Brave in 1986, have justified being market leaders.

Even winning the Derby is not a passport to success. Mill Reef is the only English-trained colt to have completed the Epsom-Longchamp double since the war. The 11 "failures" include Sir Ivor, Nijinsky, Troy and Reference Point.

And so, as Alan Munro does the dark green silks of France's Fabrice Salomon around 4pm tomorrow, he will know that the statistics and rich history of the Arc are not on his side. To make matters worse, the young jockey has six other classic winners to beat in his first Arc - a record number which makes tomorrow's race one to savour.

However, records exist to be broken and any reading of the form book has Generous and Suave Dancer well clear of their rivals. According to *Timeform*, Paul Cole's flaxen-haired son of Caerleon is 4lb ahead of John Hammond's French challenger.

More significantly, the Hall-fax sages have Generous rated at 140, a near magical figure when you consider the previous Arc winners to have attained such a mark. Since 1951 there have been only five: Ribot, Sea-Bird II, Vaguely Noble, Mill Reef and Dancing Brave.

Since spreading the Derby field at Epsom in June,



French resistance: Hammond, right, and assistant, David Henderson, look forward to tomorrow's Arc

Generous has raced twice. He beat Suave Dancer by three lengths in the Irish Derby despite having to make much of the running and, in a first-run King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, won easily down by seven lengths after displaying an electrifying burst of speed early in Ascot's short straight.

On that July day, no horse could have lived with Generous. Cole says he has him "spotted on" again so something will have to go badly wrong to prevent the roar of English voices tomorrow testifies.

The benefits of the warm sunshine drying out Longchamp yesterday were negated by Generous receiving the worst draw in stall 14. But with arch rival Suave Dancer drawn 12 and the field small compared with past Arcs, the

problem is far from insurmountable. "Psychologically, it's a bit of a disadvantage," Cole said, "but realistically it means we will be able to keep out of trouble."

Munro, hoping to be drawn in mid-division, was far from disheartened. He has been studying Arc videos and is planning to consult Lester Piggott, three times winner of the race. "I'll be talking to Lester before I go out," Munro said. "He said he would give me some advice after we knew the draw and that could be very useful."

Tonight Generous will be stable in France. The last time he encountered French hospitality he was upset by the noise from the nearby sales ring. With better luck this time, Generous will reach the

start contented and ready to run the race of his life. The rest is then in the lap of the gods - and the hands of Munro.

The jockey lacks nothing in confidence, but even he must be wishing he had been running Longchamp a few more times. "Not knowing the track means Alan will need to have an extra length in hand," Hammond commented. "It will be a handicap, however many videos he has seen."

In contrast, Cash Asmussen, rider of Suave Dancer, must regard Longchamp as a second home. From his number 12 stall, the five-times French champion will be able to keep an eye on every move Munro makes before attempting to pounce in the straight.

Hammond is the first to recognise the ability of Gen-

erous. "He is the best Derby winner I have seen in the flesh and, try as you may, it is virtually impossible to knock holes in him. If Suave Dancer and Generous run to their best form, the race should be between them."

The English-born trainer hopes his horse's increased strength and maturity, combined with the experience of Asmussen, will enable him to reverse the Curragh placings.

The two St Leger winners, Toulon and Suave, look sure to run well but winners of the Doncaster classic have a dismal record in the Arc.

Pistolet Bleu, next to the rails, is an ominous threat and sure to improve for his recent trial. But Generous can overcome history and write his name alongside the all-time greats.

Magic Ring to shine

From OUR FRENCH RACING CORRESPONDENT, PARIS

PAUL Cole's Magic Ring can provide some confidence for Generous by becoming the first two-year-old winner of tomorrow's Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp since 1978.

Without a speedster like last year's winner Dayjur in the 15-runner line-up, Magic Ring's exceptional pace can strike a blow for the younger generation.

French-trained runners have a dismal record in their own top sprint, but Divine Danse may be better value for the forecast than the likely favourite Sheikh Albadou, runner-up to Polar

Falcon in the Ladbrokes Sprint Cup at Haydock.

Cole also has a major chance of capturing the Prix Marcel Boussac with Culture Vulture, who lines up for her second lucrative prize in the space of eight days.

Between three-quarters of a length by Midnight Air in Ascot's Brent Walker Fillies' Mile, Culture Vulture was awarded the prize after taking a severe bump early in the straight. She looks a tough filly and is chosen ahead of Kembo and Luca Cuman's Red Slip, supplemented on the

strength of a stylish success at Ascot eight days ago.

The Grand Critérium today looks at the mercy of France's brilliant two-year-old Arzi, who should sweep away his opposition although David Rishwone is confident his Seattle Rishwone will run well.

France should also capture the Prix Dollar, despite the presence of top English middle-distance performers Stagecraft and Zoman. The local hope is Murzio, a progressive son of Bureld, who gave notice that he had a big future when strolling home at Deauville in August.

Tertian enters classic picture

By MICHAEL SEELY

TERTIAN was top quoted at 20-1 to repeat previous victories by Kooran and Dancing Brave in the 2,000 Guineas for Khaled Abdulla after scrambling home to a hard-fought win in the Somerville Tattersall Stakes at Newmarket yesterday.

Pat Eddery, due to start an eight-day sentence for careless riding on Monday, for a time failed to be in trouble when the 7-4 favourite was trapped on the rails with two furlongs still to run. But eventually, finding a passage through the reigning champion jockey forced Tertian to beat Mojave by a neck. Wildie Ruff finished two lengths away third.

Trained by Andre Fabre at Chantilly, yesterday's winner hails from the same stable as Thursday's Middle Park Stakes runner-up Lion Cavern. However, the narrowness of the winning margin and the apparent lack of distinction of the opposition make it rather surprising that the winner should now stand at such a short price for the Chantilly.

But the strength of support in the market showed that Tertian had travelled from France with plenty of confidence behind his chances. "We brought him over here because we wanted to give him experience of a straight course," said Grant Pritchard.

Eddery continues to ride like a man inspired. After winning the opening Boussac Selling Stakes on Mister Banks for Neville, Caladieu, the champion electric went on to complete a 100-1 treble by winning the Main Reef Stakes on Rudimentary for Henry Cecil and the three-year-old's owner-brother, Lord Howard de Walden.

Crucially, as an uneasy 2-1 favourite to make a comeback from a four-month absence after chipping a bone in his off-fore knee when strongly fancied for the Derby, he finished two lengths away second, after having been given by no means a hard race by Ray Cochrane when he was charged that the winner had the same well in hand.

"That was perfectly satisfactory," said his trainer Guy Harwood. "He's only been back in work for about five weeks and just got tired. All being well, he's still on target for the Champion Stakes."

Gordon, Abdulla's racing manager.

"The alternative was to go for a race at Saint-Cloud, but he is a big long-striding horse and wouldn't have liked the bend. He is certainly a possible Guineas runner. He may not stay further than a mile because he pulls so hard."

Pat Eddery, the owner of Generous, was all smiles as he received the winner's trophy on behalf of his uncle with Magic Ring and Zoman to represent him in Paris as well as the Arc favourite.

He said: "I only got to from Saudi Arabia today, so I haven't seen Generous in any of his work but it is all very exciting and we are hoping for the best."

Robert Sangster, the owner of yesterday's runner-up Mojave, appeared far from impressed by the style of Tertian's victory. "I know he came over with a big reputation but the form seems to be about 100 below the top. I think that Rodrigo de Triana is good value at 10-1 for the Guineas."

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GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

DRAW: LOW NUMBERS FAVOURABLE

4.25 CIGA PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE

(Group 1: £865,000: 1m 4f) (14 runners)

- (7) 215-422 QUEST FOR FAME 20 (D.B.F.) (K. Abdulla) R Charlton (GB) 4-9-4 W R Swinburn 87
(to c Rainbow Quest - Arzene) (Green, pink and cap, white sleeves)
- (11) 213-111 SNURGE 42 (D) (M. Arbi) P Cole (GB) 4-9-4 T Quinn 89
(to c De-Mou-Mou - Filadelfia) (Yellow, royal blue cross of Lorraine, ermine and cap)
- (2) 1-1215 ART BLEU 21 (C) (D. Widenstein) E Lelouch 4-9-4 C Aubert 78
(to c Legend Of France - Almyre) (Royal blue, light blue cap, light blue sash)
- (5) 408111 EL SENOR 20 (D) (W. Wright) W Wright (US) 7-4-4 M Kiana
(to h Valdes - Sunrise Star) (Pink and white stripes, white cap)
- (1) 1-12143 IN THE GROOVE 23 (D.B.F.) (S. Cooper) D Elsworth (GB) 4-9-1 S Cautley 88
(to h Night Shift - Pine Ridge) (Grey and maroon halved, sleeves reversed, grey and maroon quartered cap)
- (3) 12-3342 MISS ALLEGED 14 (C.D.) (E. Fene) P Bary 4-9-1 E Lagrèze 82
(to c Alleged - Miss Tuscum) (Beige and brown check, beige and brown quartered cap)
- (7) 1-31011 TOULON 22 (C.D.) (K. Abdulla) A Fabre 3-8-11 Pat Eddery 92
(to c Top Ville - Green Rock) (Green, white sleeves, pink epaulettes, pink cap)
- (12) 112121 SUAVE DANCER 22 (C.D.) (H. Chelouh) J Hammond 3-8-11 C Asmussen 85
(to c Green Dancer - Summa) (White, blue hollow box, white and blue hooped sleeves and cap)
- (4) 12-3231 PIGEON VOYAGEUR 14 (D) (P. de Mousse) A Fabre 3-8-11 F Head 79
(to c Saint Estephe - Homing Pigeon) (Black and yellow hoops, yellow cap)
- (14) 11-4111 GENEROUS 71 (D) (F. Salmer) P Cole (GB) 3-8-11 A Munro 89
(to c Caerleon - Doll The Derby) (Dark green)
- (1) 111-112 PISTOLET BLEU 21 (C.D.B.F.) (D. Widenstein) E Lelouch 3-8-11 D Bouff 82
(to c Top Ville - Pampa Belle) (Royal blue, light blue cap)
- (13) 0-14122 JET SKI LADY 36 (D) (M. Al-Maktoum) J Bolger (Ire) 3-8-8 C Roche 82
(to c Vaguely Noble - Barriess) (Royal blue, white chevrons, light blue cap)
- (9) 320236 SHAMSHIR 21 (Shahin Mohammed) L Cuman (GB) 3-8-8 L Dettori 81
(to c Kida - Free Guest) (Maroon, white sleeves, maroon cap, white star)
- (4) 442121 MAGIC NIGHT 14 (C.D.) (H. Yokoyama) P Demarest 3-8-8 A Bachel 89
(to c Le Main Jaune - Pin Up Baby) (Blue, red stars, red sleeves, blue cap)

BEYTING: 5-4 Generous, 11-4 Suave Dancer, 8-1 Snurge, 12-1 Pistolet Bleu, Toulon, 20-1 In The Groove, Magic Night, Quest For Fame, 25-1 El Senor, 38-1 Jet Ski Lady, Shamsir, 50-1 Miss Alleged, 100-1 Art Bleu, Pigeon Voyageur.

1990: SAUMAREZ 3-8-11 G Mosee (15-1) N Clement 21 ran

Form guide to the 14 contenders

QUEST FOR FAME

Sep 7, Kempton, good: (9-7) nk 2nd to Young Buster (8-6) (1m 3f, group 1, £28,376, 5 ran).

Aug 20, York, good: (9-6) 2nd to Toulon (9-6) (1m 2f 110yd, group 1, £14,407, 6 ran).

Jun 6, Epsom, good: see IN THE GROOVE.

Aug 25, Deauville, good to firm: (9-8) best Onagron (8-4) nk with PIGEON VOYAGEUR (8-7) 1st 3rd (1m 4f 110yd, group 1, £20,917, 10 ran).

Jul 18, San Siro, good: (9-6) best Red Sackler (8-4) (1m 4f, group 1, £15,374, 4 ran).

May 18, Newbury, good to soft: (9-8) best Sardagna (8-5) 1st (1m 5f 61yd, listed, £10,800, 8 ran).

ART BLEU

Sep 15, Longchamp, good to firm: (9-2) 4th to Splash of Colour (9-2) (1m 4f, group 1, £20,367, 7 ran).

Jul 10, Longchamp, good: (8-7) best Aved (8-9) nk (1m 4f, group 1, £10,700, group 1, £20,367, 8 ran).

Jun 14, Maisons-Laffitte, good: (8-9) 1st 2nd to Aved Les Bleus (8-9) (1m 2f, listed, £12,220, 8 ran).

EL SENOR

Sep 16, Belmont Park, firm: (8-11) best Huysen (7-13) nk (1m 2f, h'cap, £14,611, 4 ran).

Dec 22, Saratoga, soft: (9-8) best Rigmayer (7-12) nk (1m 4f, grade 1, h'cap, £21,444, 5 ran).

Aug 7, Saratoga, firm: (8-10) best Toss Prospect (8-0) 3rd (1m 3f, h'cap, £14,784, 9 ran).

IN THE GROOVE

Sep 13, Goodwood, good to firm: (9-4) 3rd to Fire Arrow (8-11) (1m 2f, group 1, £24,543, 6 ran).

Jul 8, Sandown, good: (9-4) 7th 4th to Environment Friend (8-10) (1m 2f, group 1, £17,825, 7 ran).

Jun 6, Epsom, good: (8-11) best Toulon (9-6) (1m 4f, group 1, £22,542, 7 ran).

MISS ALLEGED

Sep 22, Longchamp, good to soft: (8-11) nk 2nd to Toulon (9-6) (1m 2f, group 1, £20,367, 5 ran).

Jun 30, Saint-Cloud, good: (9-5) 4th 4th to Epervier Bleu (8-8) (1m 4f, group 1, £152,749, 12 ran).

Jun 8, Epsom, good: (8-10) 3rd 3rd to Wild (8-6) (1m 4f, group 1, £35,842, 7 ran).

TOULON

Sep 14, Doncaster, good to firm: (9-0) best Sackler (8-0) 1st (1m 4f, group 1, £152,749, 10 ran).

Jul 21, Maisons-Laffitte, good: (8-6) best Topanora (8-0) 2nd (1m 4f 110yd, group 1, £20,733, 9 ran).

Jun 5, Epsom, good to firm: see GENEROUS.

SUAVE DANCER

Sep 14, Leopardstown, good to soft: (8-11) best Environment Friend (8-11) 4th (1m 2f, group 1, £22,307, 7 ran).

Jun 30, The Curragh, yielding: see GENEROUS.

Jun 2, Chantilly, good to firm: (8-2) best Subotica (8-2) 4th (1m 4f, group 1, £254,582, 7 ran).

PIGEON VOYAGEUR

Sep 22, San Siro, good: (9-2) best Rednora (9-2) 4th (1m 4f, group 1, £102,687, 11 ran).

Aug 25, Deauville, good to firm: see SNURGE.

Aug 8, Deauville, good to soft: (8-7) 4th 2nd to Avelin Rapi (9-5) (1m 4f 110yd, listed, £12,220, 12 ran).

Apr 7, Longchamp, good to soft: see PISTOLET BLEU.

GENEROUS

Jul 27, Ascot, good: (8-8) best Sangamere (9-7) 7th (1m 4f, group 1, £25,450, 9 ran).

Jun 30, The Curragh, yielding: (9-0)

QUEST FOR FAME

Toulon (9-6) 3rd with QUEST FOR FAME (9-6) 4th (1m 4f, group 1, £22,542, 7 ran).

MISS ALLEGED

Sep 22, Longchamp, good to soft: (8-11) nk 2nd to Toulon (9-6) (1m 2f, group 1, £20,367, 5 ran).

TOULON

Sep 14, Doncaster, good to firm: (9-0) best Sackler (8-0) 1st (1m 4f, group 1, £152,749, 10 ran).

Jul 21, Maisons-Laffitte, good: (8-6) best Topanora (8-0) 2nd (1m 4f 110yd, group 1, £20,733, 9 ran).

Jun 5, Epsom, good to firm: see GENEROUS.

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Sep 14, Leopardstown, good to soft: (8-11) best Environment Friend (8-11) 4th (1m 2f, group 1, £22,307, 7 ran).

Jun 30, The Curragh, yielding: see GENEROUS.

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Aug 8, Deauville, good to soft: (8-7) 4th 2nd to Avelin Rapi (9-5) (1m 4f 110yd, listed, £12,220, 12 ran).

Apr 7, Longchamp, good to soft: see PISTOLET BLEU.

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Jun 6, Epsom, good: (8-11) best Toulon (9-6) (1m 4f, group 1, £22,542, 7 ran).

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QUEST FOR FAME

Toulon (9-6) 3rd with QUEST FOR FAME (9-6) 4th (1

Wales pin hopes on mastery of set-pieces

Waters: wins first cap

Competition, page 37

May: recalled to the second row, his experience could be crucial to Welsh hopes

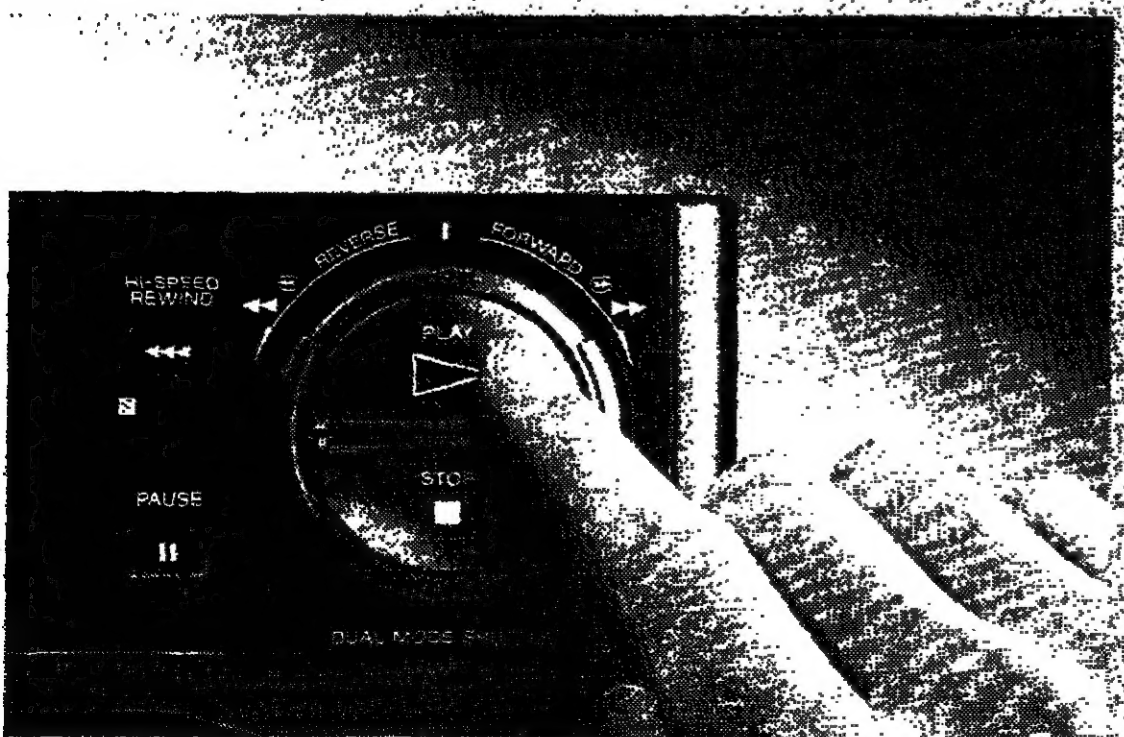
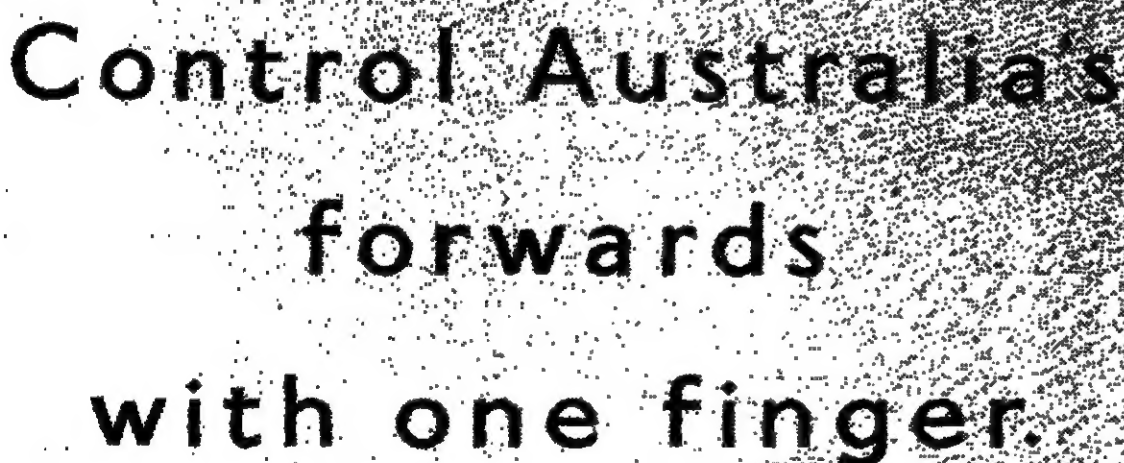


Irish left in dark over Zimbabwe

The heavier and more technically proficient Irish pack should win more possession

Teams keen to impress

changing-room preparations against New Zealand on television may have been deeply impressed by the excerpts from *Henry V* which were heard. The men in white (and blue and red stripes) did not, however, hear such stirring exhortations on Thursday, though they have had, since the excerpts were taken up by ITV from motivational tapes used by the team.



Play. Stop. Fast Forward. Rewind. On the new Sony SLV615 video recorder (and remote control) just one dial can control all these functions, as well as others. It's by far the easiest (and safest) way to push the Wallabies around.

Sony® is a registered trade mark of the Sony Corporation.

Wales		W Samoa		Scotland		Japan		
A Clement (Swansea)	15	Full back	A Aloolopu (Auckland)	15	A G Hastings (Watsonians)	15	Full back	T Hosokawa (NEC)
I C Evans* (Llanelli)	14	Right wing	B Lima (Wellingdon)	14	A G Stanger (Newick)	14	Right wing	T Masuho (Waseda University)
I S Gibbs (Merthyr)	13	Right centre	T Vaega (Timaru)	13	S Hastings (Watsonians)	13	Right centre	E Kutsulu (Toyota)
M R Hall (Cardiff)	12	Left centre	F Bunce (Glenkilbride)	12	S R P Lineen (Glasgow Hawks)	12	Left centre	S Hirao* (Kobe Steel)
A Emry (Cardiff)	11	Left wing	T Tagaloa (Wellingdon)	11	I Tukalo (Glasgow)	11	Left wing	Y Yoshida (Aichi University)
M G Ring (Cardiff)	10	Stand-off	S J Bachop (Cardentbury)	10	C M Chalmers (Melrose)	10	Stand off	K Aitenuu (World Co RC)
R N Jones (Swansea)	9	Scrum half	M M Vaea (Marist St Joseph)	9	G Armstrong (Leed-Forest)	9	Scrum half	W Muneta (Tohruha)
M Griffiths* (Cardiff)	1	Prop	P Fatielofa* (Auckland)	1	D M B Sole* (Edinburgh Acad)	1	Prop	O Ohta (NEC)
K Waters (Newcastle)	2	Hooker	S Toomelaiala (Wellingdon)	2	J Allan (Edinburgh Acad)	2	Hooker	M Kunda (Tohruha)
L Delaney (Llanelli)	3	Prop	T Sio (Northampton Suburbs)	3	A P Burnell (London Scottish)	3	Prop	M Takura (Matsumoto Kyoso)
E W Lewis (Cardiff)	6	Flanker	S Valaita (Newkays Bay)	6	J Jeffery (Kalea)	6	Flanker	H Kajihara (Tohruha Fushu)
P S May (Llanelli)	4	Lock	M S Birwhistle (Wellingdon)	4	C A Gray (Nottingham)	4	Lock	T Hayashi (Kobe Steel)
K Moseley (Newport)	5	Lock	M G Keenan (Auckland)	5	G W Weir (Melrose)	5	Lock	E Tifaga (Yosuzu Nipponkoku)
R G Collins (Cardiff)	7	Flanker	A Perrelli (Auckland)	7	F Calder (Stewart's Melville PP)	7	Flanker	S Nakashima (NEC)
P T Davies (Llanelli)	8	No. 8	P R Lam (Auckland)	8	D B White (London Scottish)	8	No 8	S Satou (Sanyo Electric)
*Captain			*Captain		*Captain			*Captain

Referee: P Robin (France)

Referee: E Morrison (England)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 D W Evans (Cardiff), 17 A Booth (Cardiff), 18 M Rayer (Cardiff), 19 G R Jenkins (Pontypool), 20 H Williams-Jones (South Wales Police), 21 M S Morris (Neath).

REPLACEMENTS: 16 P W Dods (Gale), 17 D S Wyllie (Stewart's Mohave FP), 18 G H Oliver (Hawick), 19 G R Marshall (Selditch), 20 D F Milne (Horton's FP), 21 K S Milne (Horton's FP).

REPLACEMENTS: 15 T Fujita (IBM), 17 I Takahashi (Toyota), 18 A. Oyasu (Kobe Steel), 19 M Horikoshi (Waseda University), 20 Y Motoki (Meiji University), 21 T Maseda (NTT).

Ireland		Zimbabwe		Pool 1		Q Teams in pool matches are awarded three points for a win, two for a draw and 1, for a loss, one for failing to attend. Q: best on, one for failing the bid.
J E Staples (London inst)	15	Full back	B Curran* (London inst)	15	P W D L F A Pts N Zealand.....1 1 0 0 19 12 3 England.....1 0 0 12 18 1 US.....0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
S P Geoghegan (London inst)	14	Right wing	C Brown (Hemel Sports)	14	RESULTS: England 12, New Zealand 18. FIXTURES: Today: Italy v United States (at Oley, 1pm); Oct 8: New Zealand v United States (Gloucester, 1pm); England v Italy (Twickenham, 3pm); Oct 11: England v United States (Twickenham, 3pm); Oct 13: New Zealand v Italy (Lancaster, 3pm).	QUARTER-FINALS: Oct 19: Pool 1 winners v Pool 3 runners-up (Murreyfield, 1pm); Pool 2 winners v Pool 1 runners-up (Fins, 3pm); Oct 20: Pool 3 winners v Pool 2 runners up (Dublin, 1pm); Pool winners v Pool 4 runners-up (Lis, 4pm)
V J Cunningham (St Mary's College)	13	Right centre	R Simba (Oid Harward)	13		SEMI-FINALS: Oct 22: Murreyfield v Newry (Fins winners) (Murreyfield, 2.30pm) Oct 22: Dublin winners v Liffey winners (Dublin, 2.30pm).
D M Curtis (London inst)	12	Left centre	M Letcher (Warrs)	12		THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF: Oct 30: Cardiff, 2.30pm.
K D Crossan (Rostocks)	11	Left wing	D Walters (Koro)	11		FINAL: Nov 2: Twickenham, 2.30pm.
R P Keyes (Constitution)	10	Stand-off	R Kuhn (Oid Harward)	10	Pool 2 FIXTURES: Today: Scotland v Japan (at Murreyfield, 3pm); Tomorrow: Ireland v Zimbabwe (at Dublin, 3pm); Oct 8: Ireland v Japan (Dublin, 3pm); Scotland v Zimbabwe (Murreyfield, 3pm); Oct 12: Scotland v Ireland (Murreyfield, 1.30pm); Oct 14: Zimbabwe v Japan (Belfast, 3pm).	TELEVISION: Today: Irish 13.10-16.45 and Screenport 12.45-16.45; Italy v United States (from Oley), and Ireland v Japan (from Murreyfield), Oct 12-13.00-13.05; Pooling and Screenport 15.45-21.30; Fri v Canada (from Bayonne). Other highlights: Screenport 21.30-22.30; Irish 12.40-14.45 and 17.00-18.00 and Screenport 12.45-18.45; Western Samoa, Ireland v Zimbabwe. Other highlights: Irish 23.30-00.15 and Screenport 21.30-22.30.
R Saunders (London inst)	9	Scrum half	A Farrell (Oid Harward)	9	Pool 3 Australia.....P W D L F A Pts Argentina.....1 1 0 0 32 19 3 Other highlights: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 W Samoa.....0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
N J Poplewell (Greyhounds)	1	Prop	R Hurst (Oid Harward)	1		
S J Smith (Ballymena)	2	Hooker	B Beattie (Oid Harward)	2		
D C Fitzgerald (ULS)	3	Prop	A Garvey (Oid Harward)	3		
P M Matthews* (Warrands)	6	Flanker	M Martin (Hemel Sports)	6		
D G Linnihan (Constitution)	4	Lock	C Botha (Oid Harward)	4		
N P Francis (Blackrock College)	5	Lock	R Demblon (Oid Harward)	5		
G F Hamilton (Ballymena)	7	Flanker	B Dawson (Oid Harward)	7		
BF Robinson (Constitution)	8	No. 8	B Catterall (Oid Harward)	8		

Becker back

Boris Becker plans to play in the ATP tennis tournament in Tokyo next week after a five-

Referee: K Lawrence (New Zealand)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 K J Murphy (Constitution), 17 D J Clarke (Dolphin), 18 L F P Ahern (Lansdowne), 19 N P Mannion (Lansdowne), 20 G F Heipin (London Irish), 21 T J Gleeson (Dolphin).

FIXTURES: Yesterday: France v Romania. Today: Fiji v Canada (at Bayonne, 8pm). Oct 8: France v Fiji (Grenoble, 8pm). Oct 8: Canada v Romania (Toulouse, 5pm). Oct 12: Fiji v Romania (Brive, 7pm). Oct 13: France v Canada

with back problems as well as a thigh strain. Becker also plans to play tournaments in Stockholm and Paris before next month's world championships.

Becker back

Boris Becker plans to play in the ATP tennis tournament in Tokyo next week after a five-week break because of injury. The three-times Wimbledon champion has been struggling with back problems as well as a thigh strain. Becker also plans to play tournaments in Stockholm and Paris before next month's world championship in Frankfurt.

